



**Oneida-Madison
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

COOPERATIVE NEWS

81st Annual Members' Meeting Achieves Success!



On Friday, October 4th, over 200 attendees gathered at Madison Central School for our 81st Meeting of the Members. The evening featured a delicious meal from Brooks' House of BBQ, complemented by live entertainment from the popular Nelson Brothers Band.

CEO Brian Bell, along with the Board of Directors, took the stage to discuss a range of topics, highlighting themes such as growth, success, and Cooperative Principles like Concern for the Community and Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Mr. Bell began by honoring Mr. Tom Stone for his remarkable 29 years of dedicated service on the Board before his resignation last year. Present in the audience, Mr. Stone received a heartfelt round of applause. Mr. Bell then touched on several key initiatives, including the youth scholarship (details on page 5 for the 2025 application), updates on OMEC's Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser (see page 2 for results), the accomplishments of our line crew during this year's storm restoration efforts, and significant Board achievements like completing a Cost of Service study, establishing a 10-year financial plan, proposing a new headquarters, and retiring over \$160,000 in capital credits.

President Rudy Brouillette, re-elected for another three-year term, highlighted Operation Round Up in his address. This voluntary program rounds up members' bills to the nearest dollar, with the collected change supporting charitable causes selected by members at next year's annual

continued on page 3....



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



How to Recycle CFL Bulbs

Compact Fluorescent Lamp or CFL bulbs, while energy efficient, are hard to dispose of because they need to be recycled separately from other materials due to their mercury content. However, we've done the research for you on where to dispose of your old CFL bulbs so you don't have to!

Firstly, let's be clear that no recycling center will take broken or cracked CFL bulbs, so be sure that the bulbs are fully intact (remember—mercury!). If you are an *Oneida County* resident you can dispose of your old bulbs

at the Sherrill DPW Garage located at 210 Elmwood Pl, Sherrill, NY on Fridays from 3pm -5:30pm or Saturdays from 8am-1pm. For more information you can call 315-733-1224.

For Madison County residents (or anyone), you can go to Lowe's at 1200 Lowes Dr, Oneida, NY where you can also recycle #2 & #4 plastic bags, as well as a variety of non-automotive, non-one time use batteries. For hours and more information, please call 315-366-3100.

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



OMEC proudly hosted a breast cancer awareness fundraiser throughout October in support of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In a generous gesture, the center committed to triple any donations made during the month. Thanks to the incredible support of OMEC staff, members, directors, friends, and sister co-ops, we raised \$1,510. With the matching contribution, our collective efforts resulted in a remarkable total of **\$4,530!** Thank you to everyone who donated and spread the word!

Thank You!

As always, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's 81st Annual Meeting, but an extra special shout out goes to the organizations and individuals who donate their time to make our event a success: Joy Valencia with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County, Michael and Victoria with the Madison County Office for the Aging, Phil Rose with the Fenner Renewable Energy Education (FREE) Center, and Tammy Hayes and Kayla Dye with the Madison County Department of Social Services.

In addition, we'd like to thank Christopher Post and Tyler Marris, the custodial staff at Madison Central School for helping us organize ahead of time, set up, and tear down afterward. There is a lot that goes into the execution of such an event and many hands make for light work.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our cooperative!

Photos:

Page 1: CEO, Brian Bell, addresses the membership

Page 3: Clockwise from top left— members speaking with Office for the Aging; members eating dinner; Director of Community Relations, John Salka; Assemblyman, Brian Miller chatting with CEO, Brian Bell; the Nelson Brothers performing in front of the OMEC slideshow; and Joy Valencia of Cornell Cooperative Extension in front of her information table.



Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1....

meeting. OMEC is proud to be the first co-op in New York State to implement this initiative, which is widely used across the nation.

Additionally, Mr. Scott Bugbee was elected to his first term as a director, succeeding former director Tom Stone. As always, Mr. Saulsgiver kept the atmosphere light with his witty remarks, playfully noting that Mr. Stone, whom he'd graciously asked to participate, had pulled Mr. Saulsgiver's name on the winning ticket for the Early Bird \$100 bill credit—though it was actually George Barnard who won!

Members departed the meeting with a selection of complimentary gifts, including calendars, OMEC-branded baseball caps, daffodil and narcissus bulbs, pens, and magnets. Additionally, each attendee received a \$25 bill credit as a token of appreciation for their participation.

Save the Date

The office will be **CLOSED** for the following holidays:

Christmas Eve

Tues, December 24, 2024

Christmas Day

Wed, December 25, 2024

New Year's Day

Wed, January 1, 2025

Martin Luther King Jr Day

Mon, January 20, 2025



HEAP is Now Available!

Regular HEAP benefits are now available and Emergency HEAP benefits will open on **January 2, 2025**. To see if you and your family qualify please contact:

In Madison County:

Dept of Social Services:
(315) 366-2211
Office for the Aging:
(315) 697-5700

In Oneida County:

Dept of Social Services:
(315) 798-5559 *Utica*
(315) 356-2840 *Rome*

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GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM SELECTEE

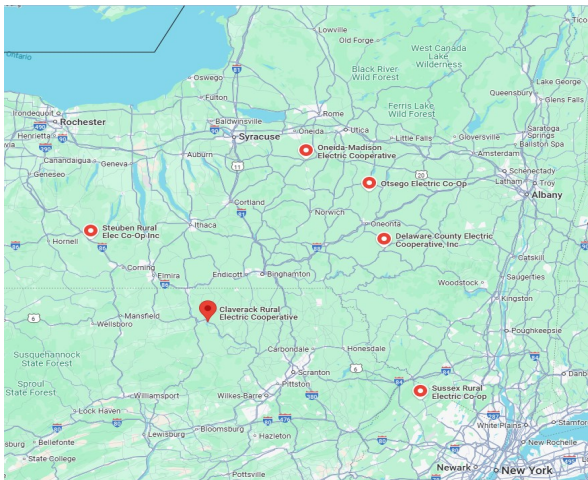


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Delaware County EC
Claverack Rural EC
Oneida-Madison EC
Otsego EC
Steuben Rural EC
Sussex Rural EC

Oneida-Madison Electric and Five Other Cooperatives Win \$27 Million Dollar Federal Grant From Department of Energy

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative is excited to announce its involvement as a subrecipient in a \$27 million grant from the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program. Spearheaded by Delaware County Electric Cooperative, OMEC, along with Otsego Electric Cooperative, and Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, all from New York, as well as Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative of New Jersey and Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative of Pennsylvania will receive these federal funds for strategic grid hardening, advanced technology and smart grid deployment, and extreme weather and invasive species resilience.



OMEC CEO and General Manager, Brian Bell, said, *"Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative is excited to partner with our fellow cooperatives in this collaborative effort to strengthen our infrastructures. The Resilience to Intense Storm and Invasive Species-Triggered (RESIST) Grid Disruptions project reflects our shared dedication to ensuring reliable energy for the members we serve."*

GRIP is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that was enacted in 2021. NYS Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, was an avid supporter of the cooperatives' application to the Department of Energy, writing in support of the project to the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm:

"The six electric cooperatives' proposed project will deliver much-needed upgrades to rural electric grids in three states and enable load growth that the region's aging electric infrastructure has otherwise constrained."

The grant will be administered over a period of five years to the cooperatives as they plan, procure, and work together to increase the durability of the electrical grid, hoping to improve major outages caused by extreme weather and invasive species by up to 50%.



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NRECA Legislative Rally 2025

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Annually, Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMEC), sponsors a "Legislative Youth Tour" providing a selected youth-delegate the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation's political leaders, learn about our Nation's legislative process and how that process benefits the critical issues that face Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Along with this great experience comes the opportunity to receive up to \$1,000 scholarship, chances for more monetary scholarships and a possibility to meet with like-minded youths in Nashville, TN for the NRECA 2026 PowerXchange.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be the child of a member of OMEC.
- Be in their junior (11th grade) year.
- Have at least a "B" average or better.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and community service.
- Be available to travel to Washington, D.C. April 27-May 1, 2025 (dates are approximate)



APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested students should:

- Complete and submit the application by February 3, 2025. Applications available on our website or in our office
- Submit a one-page student essay describing yourself. Essay should include where you go to school, favorite subjects, extra-curricular activities, and community service you have been involved in.
- Written recommendations from two references. References must be from a teacher, an extracurricular activity coach or leader, an elected official, religious leader or employer.
- Once applications are submitted an interview will be scheduled.

for more information visit

<https://oneida-madison.coop/2025-cooperative-youth-scholarship>

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Co.op.er.a.tive

- Involving mutual assistance in working toward a common goal
- Willing to be of assistance
- (Of a farm, business, etc.) owned and run jointly by its members, with profits or benefits shared among them

Rising Material Costs: A Path Forward with Resilience and Determination

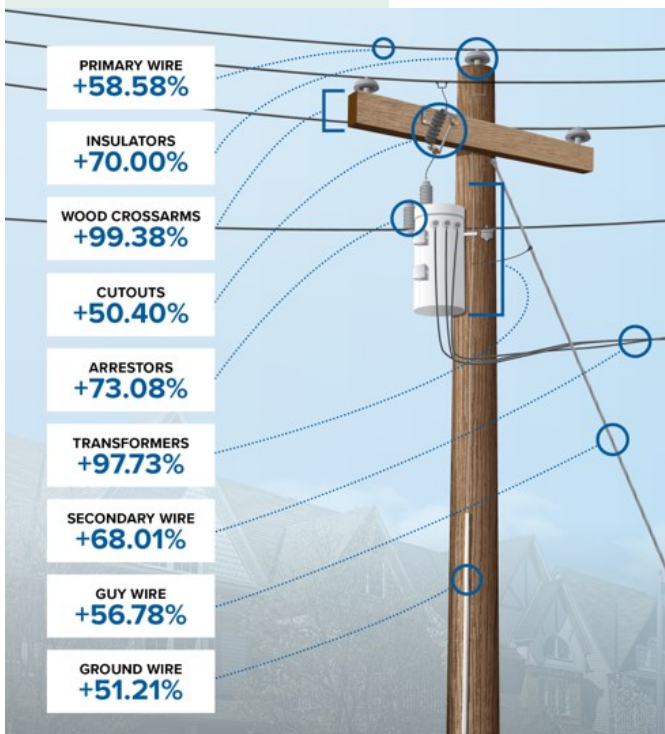
Below is a graphic showing the rising costs of materials since January 2020. While it's easy to become frustrated—perhaps even angry—and seek out someone to blame, that's not the approach we're taking.

Instead, we're focusing on what we can control: continuing to work hard. We are actively pursuing additional state and federal grants, advocating in Albany and Washington, D.C. with our elected leaders across party lines, and investing in system upgrades to make our infrastructure more efficient, resilient, and reliable.

As Shakespeare wrote in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Though she be but little, she is fierce." To me, this perfectly captures the spirit of OMEC.

When investor-owned utilities refused to serve the rural homes and farms in our region, our predecessors didn't give up. They came together—combining their heads, hands, and hearts—to form the Cooperative we are today. It was their vision and tenacity that brought electricity to communities that would have otherwise been left behind.

We must remember who we are: a community, a cooperative, a family. Our mission remains clear—to provide affordable, reliable electricity to everyone in our service territory with the resources we have.



Yes, we may be one of the smallest cooperatives in the nation, and the smallest in New York State, but that only fuels our determination. Our size does not limit our potential. It's what we *do* with what we have that matters.

In these times of uncertainty and division, I hope you find strength and unity in our shared commitment. After 82 years of service, we're not going anywhere. We are YOUR Cooperative, and though we are but little, we are fierce.

At Home With Hazel

This traditional gingerbread cake recipe is shown with a decadent butterscotch sauce and a dollop of whipped cream, but can be topped with a layer of cream cheese frosting or served simply with a sprinkle of powdered sugar.

Gingerbread Cake with Butterscotch Sauce

Ingredients

Gingerbread Cake

2 1/3 cup all-purpose flour	3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
2 teaspoons ground ginger	1 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon	1 cup molasses*
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg	1 cup warm water
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves	2 large eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon salt	

Butterscotch Sauce

1/3 cup unsalted butter	2/3 cup whipping cream
3/4 cup brown sugar	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt	



Instructions

Gingerbread Cake

1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Lightly grease a 9x13 cake pan and sprinkle with flour.
2. In a large bowl whisk together the flour, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, baking soda and salt.
3. In a separate large bowl whisk together the melted butter, brown sugar, molasses and warm water. Whisk the mixture enough so that the butter doesn't look separate.
4. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla extract. Ensure that the mixture isn't hot before adding in the eggs, otherwise they may scramble.
5. Gently whisk the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until there are no more lumps. The batter will be thin.
6. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean or with a few crumbs.

Butterscotch Sauce

1. Add the butter to a medium saucepan over low-medium heat.
2. Melt the butter, then once melted add in the brown sugar and salt.
3. Gently stir the mixture until the brown sugar is dissolved.
4. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil, then whisk in the heavy cream. Whisk the mixture as it gently boils until the cream is incorporated.
5. Remove from the heat and whisk in the vanilla extract.

Let cake cool, then slice and serve drizzled with warm butterscotch sauce and a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

*use fancy or cooking molasses, not blackstrap molasses. Honey may also be substituted for a milder flavor.



From all of us at Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative,
Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Barry, James, Amy, Vanessa, Brian, Kyla, Dylan, Ethan, & Wattson

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our OMEC family, Wattson. Wattson was rescued by Hamilton College where he was found as a stray wandering around their campus. After being given veterinary care, he needed a permanent home, but as you may know, finding homes for older cats can be difficult. We decided he would make a great addition to our office staff and he now lives with us! Wattson is still a little shy, but he's starting to come out of his shell more and more. He loves to play with his toys and get into mischief after hours! He also likes to watch the birds out the window and take lots of naps. We are so thrilled to have him as a part our team!



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