

June 2024



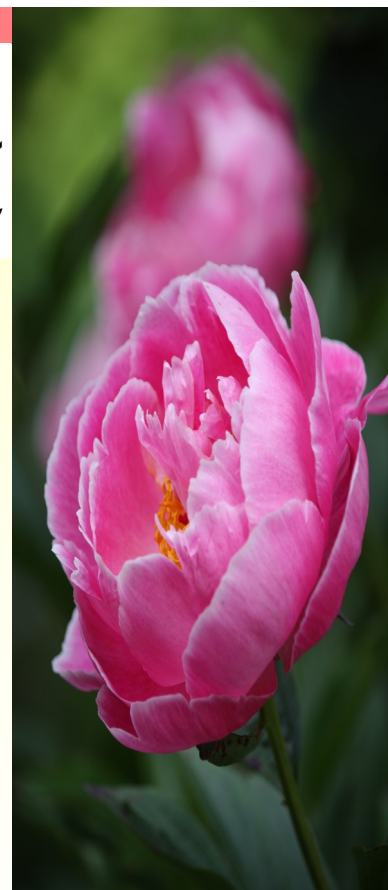
COOPERATIVE NEWS

Lincoln Goes to Washington



This year's Youth Scholarship recipient is Lincoln Dapson, son of Jen and Coby Dapson of Bouckville. Dapson, a junior at Morrisville-Eaton, is pictured above standing in front of the New York pillar at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he joined OMEC staff and co-op representatives from around the nation for the National Rural Electric Cooperative...

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

Seth Howard

James Nassimos

Kurt Peavey

You Asked and We Listened

OMEC By the Numbers

In our 16-question satisfaction survey, we ask a variety of questions including demographic information and your opinion on our newsletter and other media. In addition, there is a place to write your own feedback! Some of the questions are ranked on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the best.

Last year we brought you our Member Satisfaction Survey and asked you to let us know what you liked and didn't like about OMEC. Twenty two members answered our call to give us their honest opinions and we are so grateful for the feedback, because how do you fix what you don't know is broken?

One of the issues mentioned by a few of our members was our phone system— busy signals, difficulty getting through during outages, dropped calls, etc. We heard you loud and clear. This spring, OMEC upgraded our phone system in a huge way. There are no more busy signals, there are options to have an employee call you back instead of staying on hold for long periods of time, and there is voicemail!

With all of this said, when you do call, there is now an automated message that requires you to choose between a couple of options

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

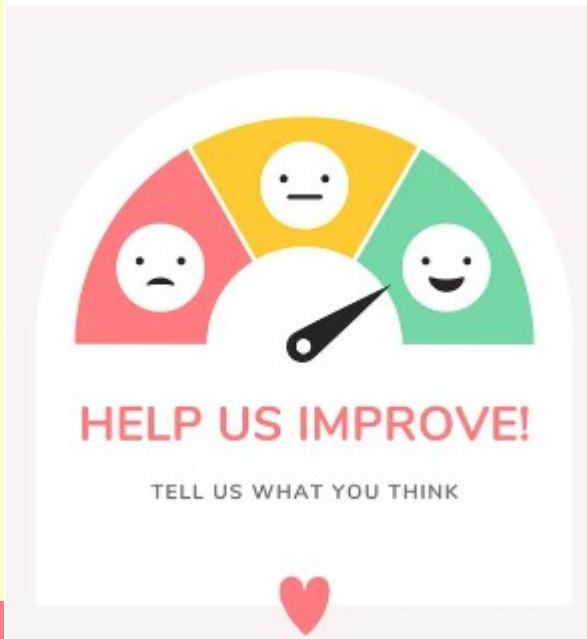
Here are some of the average scores:

1. Overall Satisfaction = **4.82**
2. Professionalism = **4.91**
3. Reliability/
Affordability = **4.77**
4. Infrequent Outages = **4.09**
5. How likely you'd
choose OMEC for
your utility if you had
the choice = **4.91**
6. Rate OMEC's
communication with
you = **4.55**
7. Rate your interaction
with office personnel
= **5.0**
8. Rate your interaction
with line crew = **5.0**

before proceeding, but we can guarantee you that the calls only go to our Bouckville office (or the answering service after hours). Your calls will not be rerouted to Timbuktu and the same gals you know and love will pick up the phone every time.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give us a call at 315-893-1851. And our Member Satisfaction Survey is still available to take anytime! You may find it pinned to the top of our Facebook page

or you can find it on our website at <https://oneida-madison.coop/member-satisfaction-survey>. The survey is completely anonymous and takes less than 5 minutes to complete!



Lincoln Cont'd from page 1...

Association's (NRECA) annual Legislative Rally. This organized event takes place each April and is the second largest grassroots lobbying caucus in the nation! OMEC, along with Steuben Rural Electric Coop, Otsego Electric Coop, and Delaware County Electric Coop meet with all of New York State's House and Senate representatives to solicit support for legislation that benefits electrical cooperatives and rural communities.

The New York cooperatives annually select a student scholarship recipient to join them in Capitol lobbying endeavors and to immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of Washington, D.C. This year, alongside our nominee, Lincoln Dapson, were Lincoln Nichols from Steuben, and Pauline "Paulie" Kennedy from Otsego. Out of all the NY candidates, one is chosen to represent the entire state at the NRECA's Annual Meeting and this year's recipient is Pauline Kennedy. Congrats, Paulie!

OMEC's representative, Lincoln #1, earned his title during his time in D.C., showcasing himself as an accomplished young man. Currently a student at MECS, he holds membership in the National Honor Society and actively participates in football, basketball, and baseball. As the middle child among three brothers, Lincoln radiates an outgoing, inquisitive, funny, and clever personality. Spending time with Lincoln on this trip was an absolute pleasure, and he undeniably stood out as a most deserving candidate. Furthermore, alongside his Washington journey, Lincoln was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from OMEC. We wish these three the best of luck in all of their future endeavors !



Pictured above, from left to right, Lincoln Nichols, Lincoln Dapson, and Pauline Kennedy.

Save the Date

The office will be closed for the following holidays:

Independence Day

July 4, 2024

Labor Day

September 2, 2024

As always, in the case of an **outage** or **emergency** please call 315-893-1851

24 hours/day,
365 days/year

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



Advocating For You Since 1942

Electrical cooperatives have had a long-standing relationship with the United States government, and by extension, the New York State government since the inception of the Rural Electric Administration by Franklin Roosevelt. Over 80 years later, we are still working directly with our governmental leaders to keep rates affordable and power reliable.

In April, CEO Brian Bell, alongside Directors Dan Saulsgiver and John Lehr, journeyed to Washington, D.C. Their mission: to engage with Congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle, advocating for critical issues facing electrical cooperatives and rural communities. Among these issues was the proposed rule mandating the use of amorphous steel in distribution transformers, replacing the traditional grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES).

While the allure of amorphous steel's potentially superior efficiency may seem compelling, the reality is far more complex. Supply chain disruptions, exacerbated by the fallout from COVID-19, have plagued the electrical industry, and distribution transformers are no exception. Complicating matters further, amorphous steel is produced by only one organization in the United States, resulting in significant lead times—spanning literal years—for these essential components.

Moreover, the switch to amorphous steel carries additional burdens. Notably, its weight is typically 60% greater than that of GOES. This increase necessitates the replacement of poles and hardware to support these transformers—a costly endeavor borne by cooperatives and their members.

Through collaboration with electrical cooperative representatives nationwide, we successfully advocated for the repeal of this rule, ensuring that supply-chain challenges are addressed before any additional financial burdens are passed on to our members. It's a significant victory! But our mission continues. As we finalize this newsletter, we're gearing up to engage with state leaders in Albany on another pressing financial matter: property taxes.

Despite being a nonprofit organization, OMEC is subject to real property taxes on every pole, wire, and transformer across the townships we serve in two counties. With the enactment of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA), necessitating system-wide upgrades, our assessments are climbing. Just as with a higher home assessment leading to increased taxes, our operational costs are mounting. Yet, we're committed to shielding our members from these additional expenses.

In our discussions with state officials, we're advocating tirelessly to ensure that you, our valued members, reap the benefits of clean, reliable energy without shouldering an undue financial burden.



Clearsight Continues with Infrastructure Inspections Across Service Area

Back in April, we sent postcards to our entire membership informing you of pole and wire inspections being performed by our third-party contractor, Constellation Clearsight. These inspections are invaluable as they allow our line crew to focus on more important tasks, while simultaneously making sure our infrastructure is sound. Clearsight's technicians look for compromised poles; whether due to rot, age, animal activity, or all of the above. They then tag the problematic poles for our line crew to replace.

With our service area spanning two counties and over 264 miles, it's clear that this is no small feat. In June the Clearsight team will be integrating their drones into the inspections, ultimately increasing the value of the insights we will gain.



The drones will be used in helping to create a better service map using GPS coordinates, as well as inspecting the poles and wires that are harder to access. A knock on your door for permission to enter your yard will rarely occur and only when absolutely necessary. Drones will follow the path of electricity lines and will only fly over a home or business in emergency maneuver situations. As a precaution, please keep all pets indoors or leashed when going for walks.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of Clearsight's work please do not hesitate to reach out to us by calling 315-893-1851 or emailing office@oneidamadison.com. You can also learn more about Clearsight by visiting their website at <https://constellationclearsight.com/>

At Home With Hazel

This flavorful salad is a showstopper for your next potluck BBQ or just a weeknight dinner entrée; versatile and easily made ahead for those hot summer days when you just don't feel like cooking!

Thai Peanut Chicken Noodle Salad

Ingredients:

Peanut Sauce

1 C peanut butter, creamy
2-3 Tbsp sriracha
1/4 C lime juice
1/4 C honey
2 Tbsp sesame oil
1/2 C warm water
3 Tbsp fresh ginger
6 cloves garlic, minced
1/3 C soy sauce
1 tsp rice vinegar

Salad

3-4 C shredded cabbage, green or red
1 C grated carrots
1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 cucumber, peeled and thinly sliced
3-4 green onions, sliced
1-2 C cooked chicken, shredded
2 packages ramen noodles, cooked without seasoning packets

Directions:

1. In a medium-sized bowl, whisk all sauce ingredients together until smooth. Set aside.
2. In a separate large bowl, add all salad ingredients together. Slowly add peanut sauce, tossing well, to make sure everything is covered, but not saturated.
3. Top with chopped peanuts, cilantro, or sesame seeds. Serve cold.

Notes:

1. The sauce recipe makes a LOT! Set some aside to marinate your chicken in for extra peanutty flavor. Or just reserve some in a jar for those who like their salads saucier.
2. While there are a lot of ingredients, you can make this easier on yourself by using some prepackaged items such as: ginger paste in a squeeze tube, pre-minced garlic, prepackaged coleslaw mix (just don't use the dressing packet), a precooked rotisserie chicken, etc.
3. This is also a very versatile recipe in the fact that you can add or subtract almost anything in the salad ingredients— broccoli, edamame, bamboo shoots, corn, beans or mushrooms would be great additions. If you're vegetarian, leave out the chicken. Don't have honey? Use maple syrup. Don't have lime juice? Lemon juice will do just fine.

