

OEC Current

Newsletter Update on COVID-19

COVID-19 is the most serious public health challenge of our lifetimes and it appears that we will have to deal with this for a few months at least. OEC has taken quick action to help our communities and to protect our members and workers. Our electric line and brush crews are currently working in shifts to ensure that if anyone contracts the virus, no more than one-half of our crew might be quarantined as a result of an exposure. This will allow us to always have crews on call and ready to go if we have any power outages. Keeping the power on is job #1 here at OEC. As always, we are also working with our members who may be struggling with their bills to help get through these challenging economic times. We will do what we can within reason to help those who are in dire need at this time.

We have also been getting many requests to get our OEConnect broadband service connected as soon as possible so customers can telework and do online coursework. We have given the highest priority to our medical and health care professionals who need connectivity 24 hours a day right now. We are also giving priority to students and teleworkers. We also are prepared to help anyone who needs telemedicine access. We are still working as fast as we can to get the final phases of construction and splicing done to enable service throughout our service area. We are thankful that we can help in many areas already and we are working hard to finish more areas as soon as possible. Due to the importance of this service, we are continuing to do in-home installations for the time being. However, this can be very risky for you and for our workers who are coming into your home. If you are sick or if you have a condition that makes you susceptible to the virus, you should not have service installed at this time. When installing in your home, all of us will need to maintain safe social distances at all times (not less than 6 feet). Please clean and clear the install area before we arrive to minimize the time spent in the home. These are very trying times for all of us but we will get through this if we all stick together. Let's keep our social distances. Thank you and be safe and well. – Tim Johnson, CEO

Otsego Electric Cooperative
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Office Hours
7:30 – 4:00
Monday – Friday

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607-293-6622

Pay-by-Phone
1-844-843-6842
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1-866-591-3192

Call **Dig|Safely. New York**
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Budget Billing

We offer Budget Billing to help make your planning a little easier. We are starting to re-evaluate budgets this month for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. Budget billing takes the annual average of what your usage has been and gives you one amount that you will pay monthly for a year so that you always know how much you will be paying. Occasionally we will need to make adjustments to these estimates especially when we have periods of extreme cold or heat. If you are currently part of the Budget Billing program, you will receive a letter from our office if your monthly payment has changed. If you are interested in being enrolled in our budget program or looking for more information, please call 607-293-6622.

Stay Home, Use Online Billing!

Smart Hub can be a greatly useful tool to help you pay and view your bill online. Smart Hub allows you to manage your account, pay your bill and view your statements online. It is an easy and convenient tool that you can access from your computer or download the app on your phone. You will have to set up an account for first time users but, if you need any help, you can call our office. We also have another online option called PayNow that allows you to pay online through our website www.otsegoec.coop by just entering your account number and last name. Take advantage of online options as well as our automatic payment line so you never have to leave the house, especially at this time!



Earth Day 2020

Earth Day is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Wednesday, April 22nd! Earth Day is always a good chance to move into the warmer months by making changes to help our environment. A couple things to remember are:

- Using energy efficient appliances and electronics
- Remember to bring your reusable bags when shopping
- Use the natural light during the day instead of turning lights on

Wi-fi Hotspot

Due to COVID-19, we know that many of our members are stuck at home and need to do various types of work online that requires internet. We know we do not have everyone connected yet but we want to be a place where you can come to get good service if you need it. We are offering a wi-fi hotspot at our office in the parking lot for you our members and neighbors to access in a time of need. Our members are our top priority and we want to offer as much as we can while thinking of everyone's safety. The hotspot is on 24/7 so you may access it at any time. The strongest signal will be found in the back parking lot so please park in that area while using the hotspot.



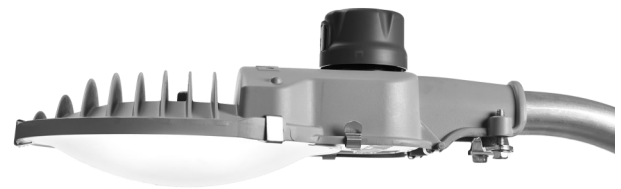
Howard S. Marlette Memorial Scholarship

Attention High School Seniors

Any High School Senior interested in applying for the Howard S Marlette Scholarship is welcome to visit our website at www.otsegoec.coop/marlette-scholarship to view the information and download the application. Howard S. Marlette was a former member of the Board of Directors and President of the Board and a well-regarded member of our community who embodied OEC's cooperative values. The application is due by May 1, 2020. For further information, you may contact Cody Allen at 607-293-6622.

Area Lights

Did you know Otsego Electric Cooperative offers unmetered outdoor area lights? Many members enjoy the comfort of automatic, dusk to dawn, outdoor lighting. An area light only costs \$9.20 per month which is added to your electric bill. A 2-year contract is required. If you are interested or need more information, please call our office at 607-293-6622.



Lineworker Appreciation Day!

April 13th is National Lineworker Appreciation Day! We would like to thank our crew at the co-op for all their hard work during the year, in all conditions. Our linemen are ready to work 365 days a year 24/7 to keep your power on and maintain/repair our electric system. Remember to thank a line worker!



DO THE FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

- 1 **HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 **ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 **FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 **SPACE** Keep safe distance
- 5 **HOME** Stay if you can

Election and Nominating Committee Notice

All members are hereby notified that, as set forth in the bylaws of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc., the Board of Directors appoints a Nominating Committee every year. The Nominating Committee will meet during the month of June to review petitions and select the list of nominees for open director seats.

The Nominating Committee meets within 75 days of the Cooperative's Annual Member's Meeting. There will be an election of two new board members this year at the Cooperative Annual Meeting on August 19, 2020. If you are a co-op member and interested in becoming an Otsego Electric Cooperative Board Member, petitions will need to be in by June 1, 2020. Each interested candidate is referred to Article IV Section 2 of the Bylaws regarding qualifications to become a Board Member.

Article 4, Section 3 of the bylaws follows:

NOMINATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than seventy-five days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations and elections consisting of five members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall review, certify and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen or more members acting together shall make nominations by petition not less than seventy-five days prior to the meeting. In the event adequate nominations are not received and certified, the nominations and elections committee will have the authority to appoint nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the certified candidates.

This year's Annual Meeting will take place at the Unadilla Valley School in New Berlin, NY. If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, petitions are available at the Cooperative office or at our website at www.otsegoec.coop.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



Special Board Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 stay at home guidelines, the Board of Directors will be meeting remotely at 4 pm on April 13, 2020 and on April 27, 2020 by phone and internet only with no public access. If you have anything to be considered by the Board, please email or call the office and your request will be relayed during the meetings.