

# OAKDALE ELECTRIC BOARD ELECTION ON THE HORIZON

## Districts 2, 4, and 5 are up for election

Members in Districts 2, 4, and 5 have an opportunity to serve on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative board of directors by running for a position on the board in the March 2018 co-op election. Three positions will be up for election; terms are expiring for James Van Wychen, Warrens, representing District 2; Rick Barrett, New Lisbon, representing District 4; and Martin Potter, Camp Douglas, representing District 5. All incumbent directors have announced their intentions to seek re-election in the Districts they represent.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is owned by its members and guided by directors elected from the membership. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent co-op members at monthly meetings. For applications or more details about board elections, visit [oakdalerec.com](http://oakdalerec.com) or contact Cherlyn at [cmoseley@oakdalerec.com](mailto:cmoseley@oakdalerec.com) or 800-241-2468.

## Director Qualifications

In order to serve as a representative on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a member must...

1. Be a member and primary resident in the district from which elected.
2. Not be employed by or have any financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or engage in selling electrical or plumbing appliances or supplies to members of the co-op.
3. Not be employed by the cooperative.

## Director Duties

A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings, and educational seminars that are designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects

of Oakdale Electric Cooperative and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership.

Grassroots democracy is one of the hallmarks of belonging to an electric cooperative. Three directors will be elected at the annual meeting of Oakdale



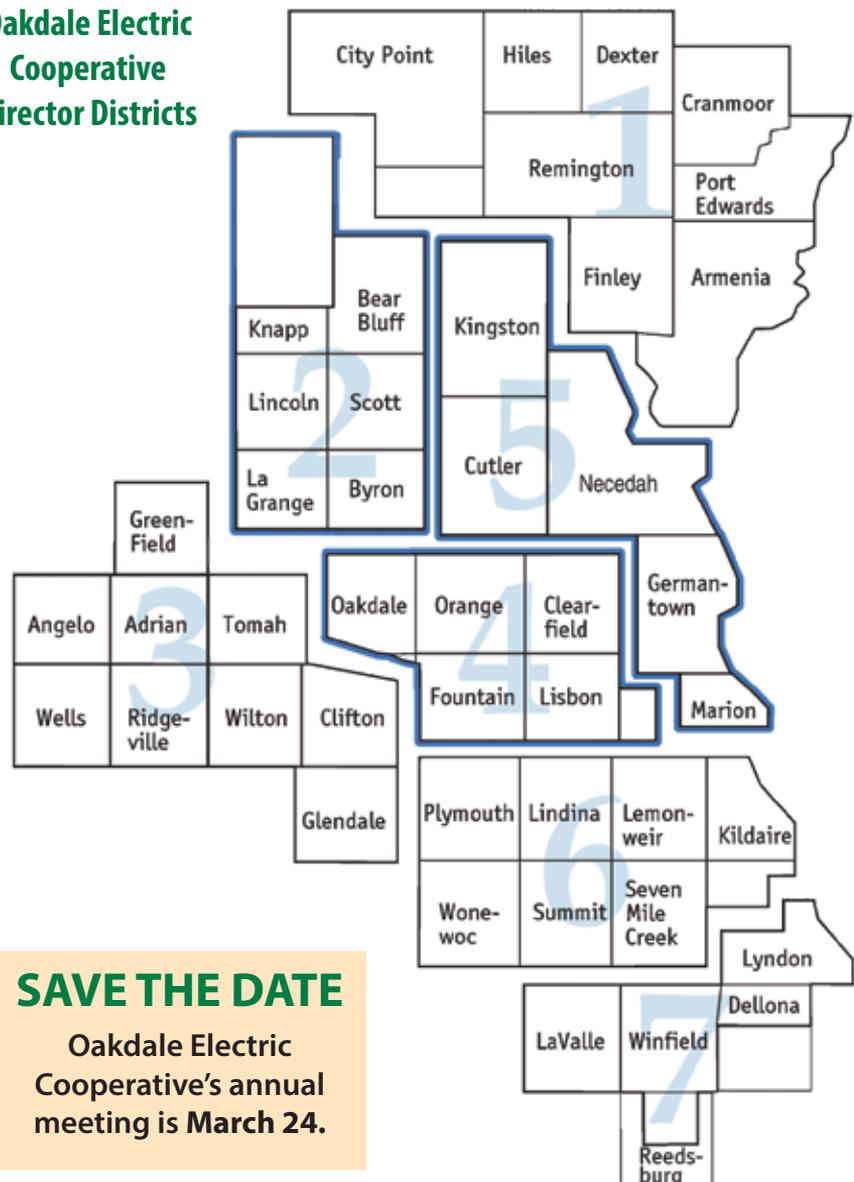
**Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Electric Cooperative on March 24 at Tomah High School. Cooperative members will vote for directors in Districts 2, 4, and 5. Consider becoming a part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate in this year's election.

**The deadline to file to be a nominee is February 2, 2018, by 4 p.m.**

## Oakdale Electric Cooperative Director Districts



## SAVE THE DATE

**Oakdale Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is March 24.**



## “It’s Been Good.”

**Who would have guessed that an appliance purchase would lead to a 38-year cooperative career? For Rose Bartholomew, that is exactly what happened.**

A state job placement for Rose’s husband, Bob, landed the couple in the area in 1979. With no intention of making Oakdale their permanent residence, they instead opted to rent an apartment in town. Their apartment wasn’t furnished with a refrigerator, so Bob and Rose headed out to Oakdale Electric Cooperative on a Saturday morning to appliance shop. At her husband’s urging, Rose inquired if the co-op had any positions available. And as luck would have it, she learned the company was quietly searching for an additional office employee. Armed with an associate’s degree in accounting, Rose applied, interviewed, and accepted the consumer services specialist position, where she remained for numerous years.

Rose had no knowledge of what a cooperative was, or how it operated, so she felt her time spent at the front desk provided a great foundation for her career. “It helps you understand how everything flows together,” she said.

Rose stated this position taught her to think on her feet, deal with members, and educate herself on the entire co-op operations. “You have to know a little bit about everything.”

The years went by, and the prospect of moving faded because Rose realized she found her home at Oakdale Electric Cooperative. “I feel very fortunate to have had a job I enjoyed and good people to work with,” she said. With the addition of three young boys, Rose and Bob planted their roots in rural Oakdale for the long haul.

Rose climbed the organizational ladder in 1990, and stepped into a bookkeeping/accounting role for the next 10 years. Her main duties included payroll, accounts payable and receivable. This role further broadened Rose’s knowledge on cooperatives, and most significantly, exposed her to the capital credits business model. “Accounting for a cooperative is very different from a general business,” she stated.

In 2000, Rose accepted the promotion as finance manager, which she held until retirement. As a key managerial employee, Rose served as a role model for fellow employees by exemplifying the cooperative principle, concern for community. This included the completion of the Advanced Leadership Program

(ALP), designed to strengthen participants' leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. "I truly enjoyed every aspect of the ALP program," stated Rose.

Rose showed concern for her fellow co-workers as well, and was known to spread random acts of kindness, with blizzards on Miracle Treat Day, lunch during the holidays, or even just a listening ear or supportive shoulder. Her unassuming good deeds, and kind heart, have not gone unnoticed at the co-op.

Moving up within Oakdale Electric stood out as career highlight. When Rose reflected back over the 38 years, she stated, "Hopefully, I did a good job." And the simple statement, "It's been good," modestly summarized Rose's feelings about her long-standing career.

**"I feel fortunate to have had a job I enjoyed and good people to work with."**

**—Rose Bartholomew**

"If you don't like what you are doing, find something you do enjoy," she said. "Don't waste your life doing something you hate." These are lasting words that we can all live by.

While Rose is looking forward to not having commitments in retirement, or setting an alarm clock, there are a few key programs near and dear to her heart she will schedule in. This includes serving on the Monroe County Housing Authority board, and volunteering as her church's treasurer. And she will always make time for her family and beloved grandchildren.

A little traveling may be in Rose's future, hopefully a return trip to Europe, but she stood firm in her resolve to not have any definitive plans. Retirement also brings the option to live life more spontaneously, which appeals to her.

Thanks to a refrigerator-barren apartment, life didn't go as planned for Rose. Oakdale Electric Cooperative will forever be indebted to that landlord, for inadvertently sending Rose Bartholomew on a shopping trip that turned into 38-year cooperative career. 



MY CO-OP



Above: Past and present employees of Oakdale Electric gathered to celebrate Rose Bartholomew's 38-year career at Oakdale Electric Cooperative on Friday, December 15. With her family in attendance, Bruce Ardel spoke of Rose's professional growth at the co-op, and thanked her for commitment to service excellence and dedication to the members. Cake, ice cream, and well wishes were served!

Left: Rose (second from right) at her graduation from the Advanced Leadership Program.



# MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

*"Life in Rural Wisconsin"*

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2019 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Oakdale Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- **Only high-resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.**

### Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run from February 1, 2018 until August 25, 2018; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All Oakdale Electric Cooperative members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An Oakdale Electric Cooperative member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- **A completed entry form must accompany each photo.**
- Member must own rights to photo.
- OEC employees will determine the winning photos.

### Photo Contest Entry Options:

- **Upload** using the Photo Contest Entry Form, found on [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com), under the News & Community page
- **Mail** to P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size, and 300 dpi)
- **Drop off** at Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office --489 N. Oakwood St., Tomah. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size, and 300 dpi)



## Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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## Deana Protz, Editor



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151  
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.