



PLANS IN PLACE FOR 2022

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO



As one year ends, another begins. Thank you to all of our member-owners for your great support these past 12 months, and we wish you and your family all the best as we enter a brand-new year.

The Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) board of directors recently approved the cooperative's 2022 work plan and budget. I am highlighting a few of the key projects planned for the year ahead.

CONSTRUCTION: The operations department will build and upgrade 42.5 miles of line. It is intended to convert some overhead to underground; however, those changes will be dependent upon cost and the location's terrain. Major construction will take place in Armenia, Babcock, Tunnel City, Oakdale, Tomah, Castle Rock, Dexterville, and City Point. Smaller construction projects are planned for La Grange, Fountain, Lindina, Oakdale, Kildare, Lemonweir, Byron, Seven Mile Creek, Lyndon, and Germantown.

RENEWABLES: Oakdale Electric continues to support renewables through our SunnyOak Community Solar Garden and assist with the connection

of member solar projects to our grid. We anticipate building two new cooperative-owned solar gardens, approximately 3 MW and 1.5 MW in sizes, in late 2022. As more information becomes available, we will share further project details.

BUILDING UPDATES: To improve safety and security for employees, and to better serve our member-owners, sections of our headquarters building are being updated this year. If you stop in during the construction, we appreciate your patience during the mess.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: Electric vehicles (EV) are coming to our area. To accommodate this transition, OEC is making necessary line upgrades to locations we think EVs will first arrive. Additionally, chargers are being



installed in key locations throughout our service territory to help with "range anxiety." This year, in-home charging pilot projects are being implemented and a specific EV rate will be developed. Watch the magazine, social media, and website for news and updates.

We offer a friendly reminder to our member-owners planning on buying an electric vehicle this year to contact our office prior to purchase, to ensure our equipment can handle the new electric load.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES: Computer systems upgrades, to help better serve our member-owners, will continue this year. These include obtaining more metering system data and substation outage information, enhanced cyber security, and new communication applications to engage with employees.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative has many more plans for 2022, and the future. Rest assured that every decision made at the cooperative is made with the best interest of all member-owners in mind.

Again, on behalf all Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees and directors, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

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Break in the New Year by visiting SmartHub online. It's OEC's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.

Questions? Call, click or visit us at 608-372-4131 or oakdalerec.com.



CHERLYN MOSELEY IS *thankful,* GRATEFUL, AND LUCKY

Oakdale Electric Cooperative has always been a special place to Cherlyn Moseley. Her earliest memory of the co-op included attending the summertime annual meeting with her family. The multiple-day event, which hosted a carnival, musical entertainers, and a chicken-que, was a highlight of her childhood. “I always understood Oakdale Electric was our electric company, but at that stage in my life, the co-op meant fairs, fun, and hanging out with friends,” Cherlyn stated.

The self-proclaimed skinny girl with blonde hair grew into a strong, educated woman with aspirations to become a paralegal. Following her college graduation, Cherlyn moved to California to pursue her dreams; however, the time spent on the West Coast was brief due to family circumstances bringing her back home. When her father passed away, Cherlyn stayed home to help her mother. She

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stated, “My mom needed me, and I needed to be close to her.”

With school loans and monthly bills looming, seeking a rewarding position that would provide a steady income was high on her to-do list. She applied for an opening at Oakdale Electric Cooperative through an employment

agency. Cherlyn interviewed and was hired for a front desk position, at which she diligently worked for 20 years.

Cherlyn never stopped learning. She took advantage of different educational classes provided by the co-op to expand upon her skillset. As her knowledge grew, more tasks were channeled her way, especially those that were technology driven. “I am geared towards organizational management. Putting together reports, creating graphs and worksheets is interesting and exciting work,” she stated.

When the executive assistant/human resources position became available, Cherlyn was the clear-cut choice to hire. “I have always believed if you could promote from within, do it,” she stated.

Attaining this position 23 years ago has been a source



of great pride for Cherlyn. It was a boost to her self-esteem that motivated her to never stay stagnant, at home or at work. She continually looked for ways to advance the cooperative, and was the force behind the move from paper board booklets to an electronic version. “I’m proud that I stuck to my guns when I wanted to make improvements,” she stated. Additional pride came from being an intricate part of the building process for the new cooperative headquarters, and seeing the growth in technology.

The variety of tasks in her current role has appealed to Cherlyn, especially working directly with the employees and directors. “I truly like helping people and figuring things out,” she shared. Tough decisions and hard conversations come with the job, but Cherlyn believes kindness and respect matter and explained by saying, “I



have always treated others as I wanted to be treated.”

As excited as Cherlyn is about the direction the co-op is going, she is equally excited to go her own way. That includes traveling, spur-of-the-moment trips, gardening, and most importantly, spending more time with family: husband, Don; children, Troy (Molly) and Lindsey (Brent); and her six grandchildren.

It goes without saying she will miss the people, but she confidently shared, “I am going to enjoy the hell out of life!”

Oakdale Electric Cooperative has always been an integral part of Cherlyn Moseley’s life. What began as “fairs and fun” evolved into a 43-year career she is thankful, blessed, and lucky to have had.

—*Deana Protz*

Cherlyn believed in promoting from within, and now following in her footsteps, Communications Specialist Deana Protz was selected to take on the role of executive assistant/human resources administrator. “I too am thankful, blessed, and lucky to have Cherlyn Moseley in my life, and for this wonderful opportunity to help lead the cooperative into the future,” stated Deana.



Cherlyn Moseley surrounded by her grandchildren, left to right: Jameson, Maggie, Carson, Rory, Camryn, and Maya.

EMPLOYEE NOTES

Farewell to our recent retirees!

After 42 years of dedicated service, journeyman lineman Pat Eirschele retired this past December. Instead of maintaining electric lines, he's now casting fishing lines into the waters of northern Wisconsin full-time.



Consumer services representative Dale Ludeking and collections/consumer accounts representative Sherry Anderson will retire from Oakdale Electric Cooperative in January. Collectively, they have served the co-op for 43 years: Dale, 22 years, and Sherry, 21 years.

Welcome to our new employees!

Newly appointed communications specialist Jackie McGlin joined the co-op in January. Jackie has a degree in agriculture marketing and communications from UW – River Falls and comes from Daviess-Martin County REMC.



The operations department gained journeyman lineman Reed Coenen. Reed received his Electrical Power Distribution diploma from Moraine Park Technical College, and completed his apprenticeship through Chippewa Valley Technical College. Reed was previously employed at Riverland Energy.



Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO


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Deana Protz, Editor



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

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