



# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

August 2025 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## The cooperative difference

### Celebrating our best asset—our members

We have shared much with you through this publication in recent months regarding the many things that make electric cooperatives different. Owen Electric, just like all electric cooperatives, is owned by its members—the people we serve. We are also governed by a board of directors that is comprised of members elected by our membership to represent you and your interests. The democratic process of electing board members is a perfect example of one of the seven cooperative principles: “Democratic Member Control.”

At our annual business meeting in June, we experienced this principle in action with the election of a new director to your board. Several hundred members voted throughout the first week in June, and voting concluded just prior to the business meeting at our Arthur Service Center in Walton on Friday evening, June 6. Jim Henning, of Florence, was elected by a plurality of votes to serve as your District 5 Director (southern Boone County) for a four-year term. Henning brings a wealth of industry knowledge to the board, and we are happy to welcome him to the cooperative. His term became effective upon

the announcement of the election results at the business meeting.

I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize John Grant and thank him for his service on Owen Electric’s Board of Directors. He has served for more than 20 years on the co-op’s board and has been elected chairman twice, one term from 2012 to 2016 and a second term from 2020 to 2024. It has been a pleasure to work with Grant, and I’m grateful for the leadership he’s shown and the direction he has provided to this organization.

This first week in June, we also welcomed members to our district offices for our annual Member Appreciation Days celebration. Several thousand of you visited us to collect your bucket, bulbs and an appreciation gift. It’s a small way of demonstrating how grateful we are to serve you. Our membership is the lifeblood of this cooperative, and it remains the focus of our employees. We exist to serve you, and we never forget it.


Thank you for visiting us and for participating in the democratic process unique to cooperatives. We appreciate you, and we look forward to seeing you



Owen Electric Cooperative President & CEO Michael Cobb delivers his address during the Annual Membership Meeting, highlighting key accomplishments, future goals and the co-op’s continued commitment to serving members. Photo: Whitney Duval

throughout the year at other functions we support and events we sponsor. From everyone at Owen Electric, we hope you enjoy this summer season!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



# Highlights from Member Appreciation Days and Annual Meeting

## More than 2,200 members attend annual celebration

Thank you to everyone across our nine-county service territory who stopped by for Member Appreciation Days and Annual Meeting, June 5 and 6. It was our pleasure to see each of you!

We extend congratulations to the winners of our grand prize scholarship and energy gift certificates.

Each year, we award two \$1,000 scholarship per board district. Congratulations to the following winners of our scholarship drawing:

- District 1, Owen County: Samuel Cobb and Joseph Ogden
- District 2, Carroll and Gallatin counties: Zackary Kindoll and Leah Riley
- District 3, Grant and Scott counties: Matilyn Perkins and Madeleine Harris
- District 4, Campbell and Pendleton counties: Ryan Williamson and Robert Verst
- District 5, Southern Boone County: Joshua Line and Jason Clark
- District 6, Kenton County: Jared McDowell and Lucy Dickman

- District 7, Northern Boone County: Isabella Ciufu and Sadie Thomas

Winners of the door prizes were:

- 65-inch Vizio TV: Stephani and Glenn Hughes, Erlanger
- \$150 Kentucky State Parks gift card: Donald Kannady, Glencoe; Kwasi Prempeh, Independence
- 60-volt string trimmer: Kristi and Casey Kinman, Dry Ridge
- KitchenAid mixer: David Vater, Alexandria
- 22-inch Blackstone propane griddle: Joyce Griffin, Erlanger
- Keurig coffee maker: Phyllis Mason, Owenton
- RTIC 32-quart cooler: Rodney Mason, Williamstown

Chloe Hager, right, won a \$2,000 scholarship. Ronald Hartman, Peggy Eilers and Connie Hearn each won a \$500 energy gift certificate.

Photos by Whitney Duvall



Member services representatives assist members with registration at Owen Electric's Annual Meeting, ensuring a smooth and welcoming experience for all attendees.



Cody Beckham delivers a Safety Town Live Line demonstration during Owen Electric's Annual Meeting, teaching attendees about the dangers of electricity and the importance of staying safe around power lines.



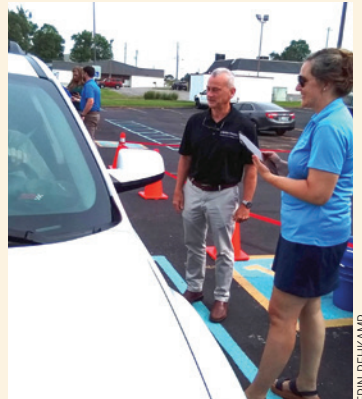


OWEN ELECTRIC ARCHIVES

Brenda Prim Korthaus, the 1976 Owen Electric Cooperative pageant winner, stopped by this year's annual meeting. Though she now resides in Udell, Iowa, Brenda hails from Campbell County, where her mother and brother still reside. Brenda enjoyed reconnecting with her co-op roots nearly 50 years after her crowning moment.



JIM PETRESHOCK



ERIN REHKAMP

## Board of Directors

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# Back to school:

## Dorm room safety starts with smart electricity use

As students gear up to return to college campuses this fall, many are focused on class schedules, packing lists and making new friends. But amid the excitement, one important topic often gets overlooked: electrical safety.

Dorms and student housing units are usually small spaces packed with electronics, appliances and extension cords—all of which can pose safety hazards if not used properly. Whether your student is a freshman or a senior, it's worth reviewing some basic electrical safety tips to help keep their space safe and their school year shock-free.

- 1. Don't overload outlets:** It might be tempting to plug in a laptop, phone charger, fan, mini-fridge and string lights all into the same outlet—but that's a recipe for danger. Use only one high-wattage appliance per outlet, and never daisy-chain power strips.
- 2. Use power strips with surge protection:** A quality power strip with built-in surge protection helps safeguard electronics from voltage spikes. Be sure to choose one that's UL-listed (this means it's been assessed for potential hazards and evaluated for consumer safety) and don't exceed its recommended wattage.
- 3. Avoid extension cord overuse:** Extension cords are meant for temporary use. If students find themselves relying on one daily, it's time to reevaluate the setup. Never run cords under rugs, doors or furniture, where they can overheat or get damaged.
- 4. Check for damaged cords and plugs:** Before plugging anything in, inspect cords for frays, cracks or bent prongs. Damaged cords should be replaced immediately—they're one of the leading causes of electrical fires.
- 5. Keep appliances away from water:** Hair dryers, kettles and coffee



makers should never be used near sinks. Water and electricity don't mix, and even a small splash can cause major damage.

- 6. Let electronics cool down:** Laptops, tablets and gaming consoles generate heat during use. Make sure they're placed on hard, flat surfaces (not beds or couches) and aren't covered while in use or charging.
- 7. Use approved appliances only:** Some dorms prohibit certain appliances, like toasters or space heaters, due to fire risk. Always check with campus housing authorities before bringing anything that generates heat or uses a lot of power.
- 8. Know what to do in an emergency:** Make sure your student knows where the nearest fire extinguisher is and how to report a fire or electrical hazard. Encourage them to speak up if they smell burning or see sparks—these are signs something's seriously wrong.

## Safety first for a great semester

Electrical safety may not be top-of-mind when heading to college—but it should be. A few simple precautions can prevent accidents and protect both people and property. As your student heads off to a new year of learning and independence, take time to talk about how to stay safe around electricity.