

OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

January 2022 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Mark your calendar for 2022

Welcome to 2022! It's a new year with new possibilities.

I'm not one for making resolutions that are too soon forgotten. Instead, my New Year's ritual is marking my new calendar with important dates for the coming year. It's a way to kick-start the year, helping me focus on projects and prepare for my favorite occasions and events.

After enduring a second year of pandemic-altered plans, there's plenty to look forward to on the Owen Electric calendar.

Topping that list is the return to a normal annual meeting format. Be sure to note June 9 and 10 as the dates for this year's Membership Appreciation events followed by the business meeting at 6 p.m. at our Walton Service Center on June 10. We will continue to offer a way to view the business meeting online, but we always look forward to meeting and speaking with our member-owners in person. This year, only members in attendance will be eligible for our grand prize so be sure to make plans to attend in-person. We'll be sure to keep you posted on all the developments relating to this year's meeting in the coming months.

High school seniors will want to note that June 10 is also the deadline to apply for one of the co-op's scholarships

that can be used to continue their education at a college or vocational school. Scholarship applications will be available online beginning May 23 at OwenElectric.com/scholarship-program. Paper applications may be picked up at any of our office locations.

Only members who apply for the scholarship on-site during our annual meeting in Walton will be included in the drawing to win an enhanced scholarship at the end of the meeting. All other scholarship recipients will be drawn the following week.

The Washington Youth Tour is returning to normal this year, too. Owen Electric is sponsoring four students to participate in this weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to visit our nation's capital in June. If your son or daughter is a high school junior, be sure to share the application information found at OwenElectric.com/washington-youth-tour.

Mark June 3-5 as the date for this year's Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games in Richmond. Owen Electric and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will again serve as a platinum sponsor of the event.

Honor Flight resumes this September after two years of canceled trips. We'll again take Kentucky military veterans on a one-day trip to



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Washington, D.C., to view monuments honoring their service to our country. Owen Electric is proud of our veterans so it is an honor to be a sponsor of the all-expenses-paid trip.

In November, our employees will help kick off the holiday season by collecting wish list items and helping decorate for the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington.

Whether you jot your important dates on a traditional paper calendar or post them on an electronic device, I hope you'll join me in getting out and doing more in 2022. Let's all look forward to a year of powerful possibilities.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



Jessa Luxon, left, a 2019 youth tour delegate for Owen Electric, stops for a photo with Regan Moore, a fellow co-op's attendee, outside the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Photo: Tim Webb

Washington Youth Tour

Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

Every year, Owen Electric offers high school juniors the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., and learn about our country's history.

The Washington Youth Tour is an annual weeklong event in June during which about 1,400 high school juniors from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., to learn more about government, cooperatives and electrification.

During the Washington Youth Tour, delegates will get the opportunity to

meet youth from across the country, interact with cooperative and government officials, and visit historic landmarks.

The purpose of the tour is to provide these outstanding young people with the opportunity to:

- better understand the value of electricity,
- become more familiar with the historical and political background of the United States,
- interact with political leaders and

- learn how government works, and
- prepare for their future

The application process is open to any high school junior whose primary residence is in Owen Electric's service territory. Applications are due February 11, 2022.

Applications can be picked up at any Owen Electric office, or online at OwenElectric.com/washington-youth-tour.

Habits for a new year

Resolve to save yourself some money through energy efficiency

January is a time for fresh starts, including being energy-conscious at home. Here are a few places to start:

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower): If you decrease the temperature by just one degree, you can save up to 5% on heating costs. Consider purchasing a smart thermostat and enrolling in our Bring Your Own Thermostat program. A smart thermostat can help you better manage your energy consumption while also getting credits on your electric bill. Learn more at OwenElectric.com/simplesaver-programs.

Adjust blinds and curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and closed at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures: Heating water accounts for 12% of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot water needs. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, you might want to consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Seal and insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners,

cracks, door frames and windows.

Consider replacing old appliances, doors and windows with ENERGY STAR-rated models: You can save about 15% of your normal energy use with these appliances and get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay. ENERGY STAR-rated items meet special efficiency standards set by the federal government.

Free your vents: HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or doors. Keep vents clear for proper airflow.

Keep food cool: Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees is usually sufficient.

Save on lighting: Switch lights off when no one's in a room. And read the labels for the most energy-efficient bulbs. For the most efficient lights, check for an ENERGY-STAR rating before you buy.



Jude Canchola, residential services manager and energy advisor, performs a blower door test inside a member's home. A blower door test helps determine the amount of air leakage in a home. Photo: Whitney Duval

Owen Electric offers several resources to help you make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. You can log on to OwenElectric.com and find energy calculators and information. If you're looking for a more comprehensive and personalized solution, book a free home energy audit, performed by our nationally certified energy advisor. Schedule by calling (800) 372-7612, option 4, or by going online to OwenElectric.com/request-home-energy-audit.

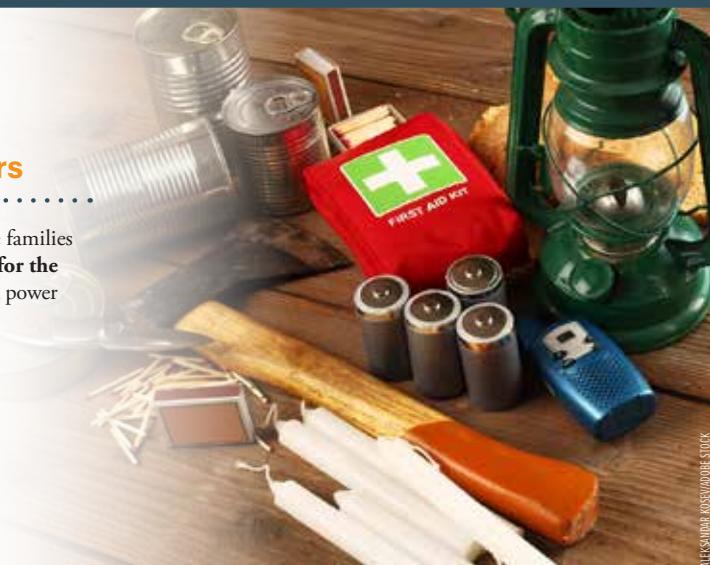
WINTER STORMS:

Prepare for prolonged outages, dangers

During this time of the year, dangerous conditions could confine families to their homes for days at a time. **Plan and prepare your home for the winter months today!** To better prepare you and your family for a power outage, keep a storm preparedness kit fully stocked.

THE BASIC SUPPLIES IN THIS KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Emergency blankets
- First-aid kit/medicine
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries
- Toiletries



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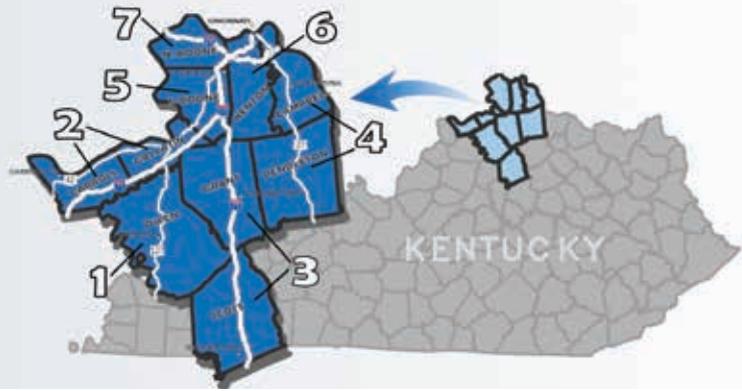
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Leadership & Governance Spotlight Owen Electric guided by board of directors

Owen Electric Cooperative is guided by a seven-member board of directors composed of cooperative members. The board meets monthly to set policies and develop long-range goals, while keeping the interests of the cooperative and its members in mind. Board members are expected to be knowledgeable about the electric cooperative industry and are often required to attend committee meetings or other events to benefit the cooperative.

During an election year, the nominations committee meets and nominates qualified individuals to fill the directorships representing the districts up for re-election. Directors are then voted upon at Owen Electric's annual business meeting. Once elected, a director serves a four (4) year term.

Current District Representation

District 1, Owen County, Charlie Richardson
District 2, Carroll and Gallatin counties, Eddie McCord
District 3, Grant and Scott counties, Robert True
District 4, Campbell and Pendleton counties, Alan Ahrman
District 5, South Boone County, John Grant
District 6, Kenton County, Rick Messingschlager
District 7, North Boone County, Hope Kinman

More information regarding current board members is available at OwenElectric.com/leadership-governance.

Candidates for the board election can be placed into nomination either by petition or by the nominations committee's recommendation. Candidates nominated by petition must have the signatures of at least 40 cooperative members within their respective district. The candidate petitions must be delivered to the cooperative office during the petition period, as defined by the cooperative's bylaws, and announced in the member newsletter in advance of each annual meeting.

Members interested in becoming candidates should review the cooperative's bylaws, especially Article IV Board Members for more information about the duties and responsibilities of the position. Potential candidates should review Article IV, Section 3, about the qualifications for director candidates. District representation is based on the permanent residence of the candidate. For further candidate or district information, contact Mike Stafford at (800) 372-7612. Bylaws can be found in your December issue of *Kentucky Living* magazine, or by visiting OwenElectric.com/member-resources. A copy can be requested by calling member services at (800) 372-7612, option 4.