



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

October 2021 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

It's a matter of (co-op) principles!

ACE Hardware, Southern States, REI, Land O'Lakes and Owen Electric all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Owen Electric was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1937, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, anyone could get electricity brought to their home, farm or business. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole

community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our communities.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Owen Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to our communities ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed

decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Owen Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Owen Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



Commitment to Community: Beautify the Bluegrass

Owen Electric employees Christina Perkins, Shannon Chappell, Rusty Williams and Whitney Duvall used their community service day to install and plant flower

beds throughout General Butler State Resort Park in Carrollton.

The group paired their efforts with electric cooperatives throughout the state and *Kentucky Living* magazine's "Beautify the Bluegrass" campaign. Now in its fifth year, the campaign encourages and recognizes improvement, clean-up and beautification projects across Kentucky.

"This hard working bunch came out on one of the hottest days and made the flower beds look professionally done. We couldn't be more grateful for the help and support we receive from neighboring businesses in our community, like Owen Electric Cooperative," says Melanie Evans, programs supervisor for General Butler.



PHOTOS: WHITNEY DUVAL



7 Cooperative Principles

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations, controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions through an elected board member.

The elected board members are accountable to the membership.

Members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote.

OWEN Electric

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Your Electric Co-op
SINCE 1937

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Co-op Connections: The one card that does it all

You benefit from Co-op Connections

Owen Electric is proud to be an integral part of the communities we serve. That's why we offer the Co-op Connections program, a member benefit program that provides discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses.

Valuable discounts

The Co-op Connections card is accepted at more than 100,000 health-related providers nationwide. In addition to local businesses, there are discounts from a variety of national businesses and chains, such as rental car companies and hotels. Your card also entitles you to prescription discounts through the Healthy Savings portion of the program. Find participating businesses and deals at www.connections.coop.

Free to all Owen Electric members

Each member of our co-op receives the Co-op Connections card free with their new member packet. There's no sign-up or annual fees to participate or take advantage of discounts and benefits. You get your benefits simply because you're a member of Owen Electric.

Can't find your card? Simply call us at (800) 372-7612, option 4, and request another one. You can also print a copy of your card online at www.connections.coop, or download the Co-op Connections app from your mobile device's app store.

Local & National Discounts

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Virtual Summer Energy Camp

The end of summer break was “electrifying” for a group of students who participated in Owen Electric’s free, three-day Virtual Summer Energy Camp. Through a partnership with the Kentucky NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project, students engaged in activities to help them explore the many aspects of energy.

Materials for hands-on engagement were sent to each participant, and lessons with activities and experiments were conducted in real time each day. Students were able to pair fun (and snacks) with learning about the science of energy; sources of energy; electricity and circuits;

climate science; and energy efficiency and conservation.

Owen Electric congratulates the following students for participating in and completing its first Virtual Summer Energy Camp:

- **Jackson Allmoslecher**, Campbell Ridge Elementary
- **Paislee Behymer**, Erpenbeck Elementary (not pictured)
- **Trace Duvall**, Maurice Bowling Middle School
- **Madelyn Hudnall**, Maurice Bowling Middle School
- **Hanon Prewitt**, Williamstown Independent Schools
- **Bryson Simpson**, Williamstown Independent Schools



JILL ALLMOSLECHER

Jackson Allmoslecher
 Campbell Ridge Elementary



WHITNEY DUVAL

Trace Duvall
 Maurice Bowling Middle School



KIM HUDNALL

Madelyn Hudnall
 Maurice Bowling Middle School



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