

# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

January 2021 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Back to the future

Technology plays an important role in the daily activities of any utility. Owen Electric Cooperative depends on it to deliver safe, reliable electricity to you at the lowest possible cost.

Yet I still prefer the low-tech approach when it comes to calendars. I find satisfaction in turning a paper page to begin a new month. That's especially true as I flip to January 2021, leaving behind memories associated with words like closed, canceled and postponed.

The roadblocks of 2020 forced your co-op to muscle up and demonstrate its resilience again and again. When the going got tough, we were always tougher.

Now it's time to get back to the future—on to a new year, renewed hope and great things here at Owen Electric. Here are a few things we're doing in 2021:

**Employing next generation technology.** We'll continue to expand and maintain our use of advanced technologies to provide the best possible service to members. From the way we monitor electricity distribution to how we attract new jobs to the area, Owen Electric is committed to leading with innovation. We deployed automated meters so you can better track your energy usage, report an issue or enroll

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

Creating jobs

Supporting Communities

Providing your power

Honoring Veterans

Serving you

RANDY BUCKNAM

in programs like Prepay. If you haven't taken advantage of the benefits of your automated meter, make 2021 the year you give it a try.

**Creating new jobs.** As one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we're supporting economic development initiatives to court new industry and expand existing businesses. Our goal is to bring more jobs and better paychecks to this area.

**Saving energy.** Any year is a good one to save energy and money. Our new Virtual Energy Assessment (VEA) program is one of the services we offer to help you do just that. Check out the VEA and other energy saving calculators under the "Save Energy, Save Money" tab at [Owenelectric.com](http://Owenelectric.com).

**Caring for community.** Supporting people and places along our lines is essential to our way of doing business. In 2021, we'll continue our support of Ronald McDonald House Charities to help local families with hospitalized children. We're excited about the return of the Special Olympics Kentucky's Summer Games and Honor Flight, two events we sponsor.

From all of us at Owen Electric, here's wishing you and yours a healthy and prosperous 2021. Bring on the future. Let's go!

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# Meet your cooperative directors

We're excited to kick off 2021 with a series that invites you to learn more

about the directors who serve Owen Electric's membership across its seven districts. This month features

Charlie Richardson, District 1—Owen County, and Eddie McCord, District 2—Gallatin and Carroll counties.

## Charlie Richardson

Charlie Richardson began his service on the Owen Electric Board of Directors, serving District 1—Owen County—in 2016. Prior to serving as a director, he owned and managed Richardson Contracting, a power line maintenance and construction company, for nearly 20 years. Now retired, Charlie enjoys farming commercial cattle.

A native of Owen County and graduate of Owen County High School, Charlie's desire to serve on the board of directors was inspired by his "lifelong connection to Owen Electric."

"Since my dad was manager here (at Owen Electric)...I'd tag along with him when I was a little boy; then, I was a contractor for them for 20 years. It's always been a part of my life, and I'd been connected to it—I wanted to be connected to it again."



To Charlie, one of the most important aspects of representing the Owen Electric members in District 1 is making sure they receive the best service possible out of their electric cooperative.

"You have to do what's best for both the employees of the co-op and its members," Charlie says. "It

starts with taking care and appreciating your employees and then taking care of the members you serve by ensuring good management decisions."

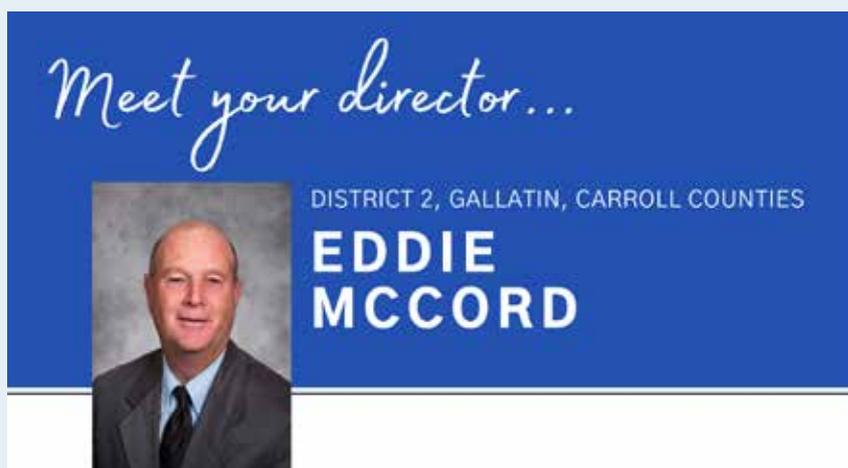
Charlie is married to Rita and has two stepchildren, Natalie and Chris, as well as two grandchildren, Alexa and Jack.

## Eddie McCord

Eddie McCord has served on behalf of District 2—Gallatin and Carroll counties—since 1994. Eddie farms with his son, Zachary, raising tobacco, corn, soybeans and grain. In his spare time, he enjoys restoring vehicles; he's currently restoring a 1984 GMC truck that belonged to his father in hopes that one day, his youngest son, Jacob, will take the wheel.

Having grown up in Gallatin County, Eddie enjoys the opportunity that serving on the board of directors affords him to interact with his local members.

"We have a good, diverse group of directors," Eddie says. "Serving



has allowed me opportunities I never would have had otherwise, and I enjoy meeting members of my district—they have questions

sometimes, and I enjoy talking with them."

Eddie is married to Nancy and has three children, Beth, Zachary and Jacob.

PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

## Safety Matters

# Watch for three signs of electrical overload

Circuit overload happens when appliances, TVs and other electronics draw more electricity than one circuit can handle. The circuit can overload if you repeatedly operate too many devices on one circuit at the same time.

For example, overload could occur during a family get together if a slow cooker, a coffee maker and other appliances are plugged into the same power strip or outlet. Usually, this results in an automatic trip of the breaker. Over time, a circuit that continues to overload could result in a major safety problem.

There are three classic indicators of circuit overload:

**1 Constant circuit breaking.** If you continually find yourself resetting a tripped breaker, that indicates too many devices are on one circuit. Eventually, the circuit may stop tripping and result in an electrical fire.

**2 Flickering lights.** This issue could intensify as more appliances are plugged in. Eventually, the lights may go off completely.

**3 Sight and sense warnings.** These include warm outlets, smoky smells, darkened outlets, buzzing noises or a tingling sensation from touching outlets, switches or appliances.



If any of these classic signs occur, have a qualified electrician check if you should add circuits. The investment is small compared to the protection and safety of your family and home.

Owen Electric cares about electrical safety. Be safe and be aware of overloaded circuits.

# SPACE HEATER SAFETY

**Temperatures are dropping, and families are pulling out their trusty electric space heaters. But don't forsake safety for convenience.**

- Make sure the space heater has been tested to the latest standards and is certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Use only portable space heaters that have an automatic “tip-switch,” which will cause it to turn off automatically if the heater is tipped over or not upright.
- Make sure it has a guard around the flame area or heating element.
- Place the heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface; do not place on rugs or carpets, near bedding or drapes, or on tables or countertops.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from bedding, drapes and other flammable items.



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# Note of thanks

Dear Owen employees,

We appreciate your prompt attention to any power outages during the past decade. You are awesome!

Thank you also for your professionalism from all your employees and fieldmen that we have had the pleasure in meeting.

—Tim and Terri M.



# Congratulations!

Judy Isaacs, pictured above, was the grand prize winner for the 2020 Member Appreciation Days event. Judy won \$1,000 toward any ENERGY STAR appliance of her choice.

Other door prize winners included:

**Virgil Hensley** – 42-inch LED Television  
**Richard Beyer** – Kentucky State Parks Gift Card  
**Paul Twehues** – Kentucky State Parks Gift Card  
**James Resing** – Yeti Cooler  
**Jessica Reeves** – KitchenAid Mixer  
**Roy Marksberry** – CharGrill Charcoal Grill  
**William Arlinghaus** – Air Fryer  
**Robert Weber** – Emergency Road Kit  
**Donald Seitz** – Girls' Bike  
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