

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

April 2024 NEWS



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## WORKING TODAY TO



## TOMORROW

JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP • 4.27.24

## 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



#ThankALineworker



**THIS IS YOUR PRIZE STUB AND REGISTRATION TICKET!**

Please detach this mailing label and bring it to the annual meeting.

# Notice of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Meeting Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m.



## In-person Meeting Locations

Members can join us at:

- Ladysmith headquarters warehouse at 1102 W 9th St N, Ladysmith, or
- Hayward Outpost office at 13895 W County Highway B, Hayward

## Annual Meeting Order of Business

1. Report on Registration
2. Affidavit of Mailing
3. Approval of the 2023 annual meeting minutes
4. Reports from directors, General Manager/CEO, and guest speaker
5. The election of three directors: one each from districts 1, 5, and 6
6. Unfinished and New Business
7. Prize drawings
8. Adjourn

Members not able to attend this meeting in person can watch the meeting live on our Facebook page. Members will not be able to register or participate in the meeting via the livestream. This will be a VIEW ONLY option.



## THREE VOTING OPTIONS

### One Vote Per Membership

Refer to page 16c for details on the three ways members can cast their vote. Your absentee ballot is located on page 16d.



# PRIZES

- **\$1,000 IN ENERGY CREDITS:** Drawings will be held at the end of the meeting. Members will have a chance to win the grand prize of a **\$500 energy credit** or one of the five **\$100 energy credits**. Members must be present at one of the two in-person meeting locations to be eligible to win.
- **\$25 ENERGY CREDIT:** A JREC night-light and a \$25 energy credit will be given to each registering membership who attends the business meeting in person.

This card will assist JREC employees in registering you at the annual meeting and for the prize drawings. Only JREC members are eligible for prize drawings.

**You MUST be present to win.**





Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

# JOIN US FOR THE 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 86th annual meeting is just around the corner, and we have some exciting news to share about your cooperative. The meeting will take place on April 27 where you will have the option to attend in-person at the Ladysmith headquarters or the Hayward outpost. By holding the meeting at both locations, we hope more members will be able to participate. Members at both locations will be able to vote in person, ask questions, and win prizes.

Attending in person not only allows you to participate in the various aspects of the meeting, but it provides you with an opportunity to connect with cooperative employees, fellow members, friends, and neighbors. It is a fantastic way to learn more about your cooperative, its programs, and to share your thoughts with us.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and

the business meeting is called to order at 10 a.m. For those who prefer to cast an in-person ballot, you will have the opportunity to do so during registration.

During this year's meeting, we'll cover several key topics including:

- The financial performance of the co-op,
- Progress on the collaboration bringing high-speed internet to our rural communities,
- Updates on resiliency and reliability efforts, including vegetation management and grid improvement projects,
- Upcoming outage notifications,
- Scholarships, and
- Community Cents program.

Our guest speaker from Dairyland Power Cooperative will provide valuable insights on issues affecting our membership.

As always, the election of three board

positions will be held. This exemplifies the cooperative advantage, granting you a voice in who represents you on the board of directors through the power of one member, one vote. Please take a few moments to vote, either online, by absentee ballot, or in person on April 27. Election results will be announced during the meeting.

For those attending in person, you'll receive a JREC night-light and a \$25 bill credit. During the meeting you will be given a chance to win even more energy credits. For all drawings, you must be present to win.

I understand everyone has a busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to attend this meeting. Whether you choose to join us in person or in view only mode via Facebook, your involvement is highly encouraged and is important to the future success of the cooperative. This meeting allows you to hear firsthand what your co-op is doing today to power your tomorrow.

## Capital credits are one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Here's how capital credits work:

Your cooperative keeps track of how much electricity you purchase and how much money you paid for it through the year.

### PATRONAGE

At the end of the year, your cooperative completes a financial analysis and determines the amount of excess revenues.

### MARGINS

Your cooperative allocates the margins to members as capital credit based upon their electricity use during the year.

### ALLOCATION

When the financial condition of your cooperative allows, the board approves a portion of your capital credits to be paid out.

### GENERAL RETIREMENT

Your cooperative notifies you of how and when you'll receive your capital credit retirement.

### COOPERATIVE BENEFIT

The co-op works hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it's sure nice to know that when there are excess margins, they ultimately come back to you, because you are a member-owner.

All members will find their 2023 capital credit allocation (your

portion of the excess margins) listed in the Account Activity portion of your April energy bill. The allocation amount on your energy bill is based on what you paid into the cooperative for the same year. Please note the amount listed is not a bill nor is it a credit that can be used to pay your energy bill.

# MEMBERS TO VOTE IN DIRECTOR ELECTION

## Co-op Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

As a member of the cooperative, you have a voice in the annual board of directors' elections. Elected directors serve a three-year term on the nine-person board. You can vote for one person from each of the three director districts that are up for election, regardless of where you live. You can get to know more about your director candidates in the brief biographies here.

Each member has one vote. Please note that joint memberships constitute one (1) member and one vote. More information on the three different ways you can cast your vote (electronic, absentee, and meeting-day) can be found on page 16c.

**What is the role of a director?** A director provides strategic direction and guidance to management to ensure the cooperative continues to serve the interests of our membership. Directors are also asked to not only participate in monthly board meetings, but to also attend national, state, and local meetings throughout the year. You can read more about what is expected of a director at [jrec.com/board-and-district-information](http://jrec.com/board-and-district-information).

### DISTRICT 1:

Jane Reich here. I have represented you for about 12 years now. My focus is on safe, affordable, reliable energy. I have been involved in many decisions that will affect all members for years to come. The important factor is doing my homework—reading all I can, analyzing and considering all opinions, and collaborating with all directors making the best decisions possible for our cooperative.

Policy is changing, affecting the electrical industry. Our government politicians and agencies all seem to have different ideas and opinions on where and how and with what the electrical industry should move forward. The uncertainty here for me is the reasoning on our forward path. That is why I believe it is of utmost importance to reach out to our elected

officials and tell them our story and our concerns, and school them in the needs we have with ROFR and Nemadji Trail.

As members, as we all are, we have SUCH A LARGE STAKE IN OUR OWN FUTURE. My purpose on this board is to bring all our member concerns and ideas forward with passion and care for us to have affordable, RELIABLE, power now and for our children, grandchildren, and for generations to come.



**JANE REICH**  
Sheldon, Incumbent

### DISTRICT 1:

As a retired dairy farmer my journey has been deeply rooted in the rich soils of the Gilman area where my husband and I dedicated 25 years to farming. This rewarding chapter of my life opened doors to significant roles within the agriculture community, notably on the dairy cooperative board. There, I contributed as a member of the resolutions committee and had the honor of serving as the district president. My commitment to fostering growth and leadership extended to my service on the Taylor County 4-H Federation board and holding various positions within the FFA Alumni, each role giving me invaluable experience and insight.

Transitioning from farming, my career path diversified into several fields. I spent five years in steel manufacturing, another five years contributing to the Clark County Healthcare system, and eight years working within the Department of Corrections in Chippewa and Stanley. Throughout this period I also worked for the USDA as a field enumerator, a position I continue to hold with pride. These experiences have not only

broadened my perspective but have also equipped me with a versatile skill set.

My tenure as a member of the JREC board previously afforded me the opportunity to serve as a credentialed cooperative director and to contribute to the WECA education committee. These roles have prepared me to once again embrace the responsibilities that come with serving our community.

I am eager for the opportunity to serve again. While I recognize that the challenges we face today may have evolved, the core mission remains the same: to keep our members cost down while providing reliable and dependable services. I am prepared to contribute positively to our collective goals and navigate the complexities of our changing world.



**NANCY LATO**  
Gilman, Challenger





## DISTRICT 5:

I became a member of Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) in 1979 when I and my wife, Susan, moved into the JREC family. We have three grown children and eight grandchildren. I take every opportunity to spend time with my children and grandchildren and when time allows, I enjoy experiencing the outdoors while fishing, hunting, or gardening. I was a small business owner prior to retirement. I am a member of the Rusk County Wildlife Restoration Association and a former member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and its Executive Council.

Owning and operating a small auto repair shop in Ladysmith for 29 years provided the opportunity to gain valuable business experience, including listening and solving customers' problems. This knowledge continues to be useful in representing the JREC membership and making tough decisions for the long-term benefit/good of the co-op.

I believe that currently our board of directors is cohesive and works together positively. As a board, we research and discuss concerns with respect of one another. At all times, my goal is to work together to make sound decisions which align with our co-op principles.

Kurt Harris, our CEO, is clearly leading JREC in a positive direction, while working cohesively with the board and his staff. We continue to provide ways to stay connected with our membership, enabling them to communicate their personal concerns regarding our co-op. The electric cooperative system is a not-for-profit business of which the membership (you) are part owner. As a board, we are working together to accomplish positive results.

In 2019 the board approved the building of a new Ladysmith facility for the purpose of efficiency and needed updates. The building project was completed in 2020 under

## DISTRICT 6:

I have served one term on the Jump River Board of Directors, and I am asking for your vote to represent the membership for a second term.

My interests as a JREC board member are focused on achieving two major objectives: affordability and reliability. Enhancing reliability means reducing the number and length of power outages. My wife, Deb, and I live in a rural area and power outages are a big deal for us; we heat with electricity, and it powers our well pump. To improve reliability, Jump River should continue burying more power lines underground and investing in computer systems that help us identify when and where power outages are occurring.

Affordability is the other big challenge. It starts with holding down increases in the members' electric bills, but we must also keep in mind the broader goal of managing debt and securing our financial position for the long term.

budget. When the decision was made to move forward with the building project, construction costs were increasing at the rate of 5% annually. In light of the recent past and current economics, it was the right decision. Waiting 10 years could have increased the cost by 50%.

I also supported changing our billing emphasis to recover base expenses from every member equally, which enabled us to lower the cost of each kilowatt. We continue to discuss time-of-use billing (paying more for power during peak demand times, but less during low demand times) which gives us all the opportunity to shift our load times. If utilized, the cost to the members could be lowered.

At this time, green energy sources are not dependable enough to supply power to the base load, but we continue to strive to be environmentally responsible. However, the electrical industry is continually getting political pressure to shut down dependable coal plants prior to securing adequate amounts of energy through other sources of dependable power. As far as local control of dependability JREC excels. In December of 2022 when northern Wisconsin experienced the devastating snowstorm, JREC outperformed the for-profit electricity providers and yet our rural areas were hit harder than theirs.

I find this position on the board interesting and fulfilling. I want to thank the members of Jump River Electric Cooperative for supporting me as their director in District 5 and ask for your continued support as we move forward.



**WILLIAM (BILL)  
VAN DOORN**  
Ladysmith, Incumbent



**WILLIAM AMERY**  
Hayward, Incumbent

I am proud to be a part of the Jump River Electric Cooperative. The electric business is complex and dynamic, and Jump River is but a small part of this very, very large industry. Though small, we enjoy many strengths. We have a top-notch management team, dedicated workforce, solid infrastructure, and a proud history of service dating back to 1938. As a board member, I feel my duty is to respect and honor all the good the organization has done, while looking forward, probing our weaknesses, and asking the hard questions that will preserve what has been built for current and future generations of JREC members.

The Bylaws provide that the Rules & Resolutions Committee shall meet and adopt rules and procedures for conducting the annual meeting. This year the committee included six members, none of whom was an incumbent director or candidate for director. The rules and procedures approved by the Committee are as follows:

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING RULES

1. Members may attend in person either at the Ladysmith headquarters or at the Cooperative's office in Hayward. Meeting day voting will be available at both locations.
2. To the maximum extent feasible, voting at the meeting will be by show of member voting card that will be provided at registration. There will be no voice voting.
3. Any proposed resolution on policy affecting Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (JREC), was required to be submitted by February 27, 2024, the deadline included in the December, January, and February *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN)* mailed to each member.
4. Members are being provided an Absentee Ballot in the April issue of the WECN to vote on the three director seats up for election this year. Members received information on their three voting options and deadlines associated with each option in the March and April issues of the *WECN*, as permitted in Article III, Section 7 of the Bylaws. Members may vote in any one of three ways: absentee, electronically, or by meeting-day ballot. Electronic votes must be cast by 4 p.m. on April 25, 2024; absentee ballots must be received at the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 26, 2024.
5. The tellers may begin opening and counting the ballots prior to the opening of the meeting, to avoid unnecessarily extending the length of the meeting. The Chair may close meeting-day balloting at the beginning of the meeting.
6. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as supplemented by these Rules. The Chair of the meeting has appointed the Cooperative's Attorney, Niles Berman, to act as Parliamentarian of the Meeting.
7. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking. Only members will be recognized by the Chair, and each member must give his or her name and address. Members are to limit their comments to two (2) minutes, with any rebuttal limited to one (1) minute. The Chair and his designee at the Hayward site shall be responsible for maintaining decorum during the meeting. Comments from members will be in order during comments and questions, unfinished and new business sessions and after all reports and presentations have been given.



### JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**  
Coffee and cookies served from 9:30 - 10 a.m. during registration.  
Business meeting begins at 10 a.m.  
Please join us at the location that works best for you!

 Ladysmith Headquarters Warehouse  
1102 W 9th St. North, Ladysmith

 Hayward Office  
13895 W County Hwy. B, Hayward







# YOUR VOTING OPTIONS

## OPTION 1:

### ELECTRONIC BALLOT

Members can cast a web ballot online through SmartHub. If you do not have a SmartHub account, you will need to first create one. Online voting will be open until April 25 at 4 p.m.



## ELECTRONIC BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Log into your SmartHub account or create one by following the instructions at [jrec.com/smarthub-how](http://jrec.com/smarthub-how).
2. Once you're logged into SmartHub you can cast your vote by clicking on the "Vote Now" tab at the top of the page.
3. A Voting Instruction screen will open. Review instructions then click "Go to Ballot". Director candidate bios can be viewed, and members can vote for one candidate per district. Click on the "Go to Ballot Confirmation" link to view a summary of your ballot.
4. You can view and/or change your vote from this summary screen before you submit it. Then click "Submit Ballot" once you are ready to cast your vote. You can also print a record of your ballot summary.
5. Enter your email address only if you want to receive a confirmation by email. Click "Continue" then "End Session".



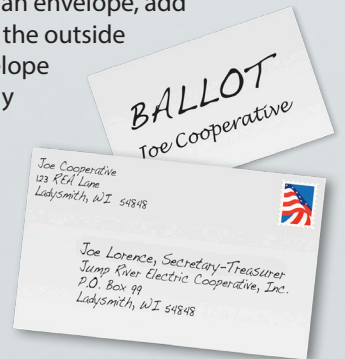
## OPTION 2:

You can find the **ABSENTEE MAIL-IN BALLOT** on page 16d. All absentee ballots must reach the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 26, and will not be accepted at the 86th Annual Meeting.



## ABSENTEE MAIL-IN BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Vote for one candidate from each district by marking an "X" on the ballot next to the candidate of your choice from that district. You can vote for one person per district.
2. Enclose the completed ballot in an envelope, add **BALLOT** and your **SIGNATURE** to the outside of the envelope (see inside envelope example at right). Ballots are only counted if you **SIGN** your envelope!
3. Enclose the ballot envelope inside another envelope, add your name and return address in the upper left-hand corner, add a stamp, and mail to: Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer, Jump River Electric Cooperative, PO Box 99, Ladysmith WI 54848



## OPTION 3:

Members who attend the annual meeting on April 27 and have not cast a ballot prior to the meeting will receive a **MEETING-DAY BALLOT**.



## MEETING-DAY BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Meeting-day ballots will only be provided to members attending the 86th Annual Meeting who have not cast a timely absentee mail-in ballot or electronic ballot.
2. Meeting-day ballots can be obtained at the registration table.
3. These ballots need to be cast prior to the opening of the business meeting at 10 a.m.

If you have questions on any of the above voting options or need help setting up your SmartHub account, please contact our office at 715-532-5524.



# 86th ANNUAL MEETING ABSENTEE BALLOT



## BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS

Vote for one person from each of the below districts to serve on the JREC Board of Directors. See Candidate Biography Information on pages 16–16a.

### DISTRICT 1

- Jane Reich
- Nancy Lato

### DISTRICT 5

- William (Bill)  
van Doorslaer

### DISTRICT 6

- William Amery

# VOID

Absentee mail-in ballots must reach the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 26, 2024, and will not be accepted at the 86th annual meeting. Copies of this will not be accepted. Please remember, only one ballot will be accepted per membership.



### An easy way to manage your electric bill and cast your electronic vote!

You can be **on the go and in control** with SmartHub, our web and mobile app that allows you to do business like never before. You can enroll in autopay with a checking account or credit card. Members who set up autopay through a checking account will receive a one-time \$15 credit.

That's not all SmartHub offers. It allows you to see your daily electric use and compare your usage month to month. If you've ever wondered when your lowest or highest electric usage took place, go to SmartHub and find out. This app also provides you access to casting an electronic vote for the above director election. If you have not signed up, you're missing out. You can sign up today by following the step-by-step instructions below.

#### How to create a SmartHub Account:

1. Create or SmartHub account by going to [jrec.smarthub.coop/ui/#/registration](https://jrec.smarthub.coop/ui/#/registration) or scan the QR code to the right.
2. Enter the requested information (account number, last or business name, and email address).
3. When successful, you will receive a congratulations notification.
4. Check your inbox for an email that will contain a button asking you to **Verify Account**.
5. You will be taken to a screen asking you to set your new password. Enter your new password.
6. You are then asked if you want to try Paperless Billing. Click **Yes** and **Submit** to activate paperless billing. Please note you will receive a one-time \$10 credit for going paperless.
7. Last step is to set your security phrase. It can be anything. Once this is done you will be brought to the home screen of SmartHub.
8. Click the VOTE NOW tab at the top of the screen if you'd like to cast an electronic vote.



You can download a **FREE** SmartHub mobile app at the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB



## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

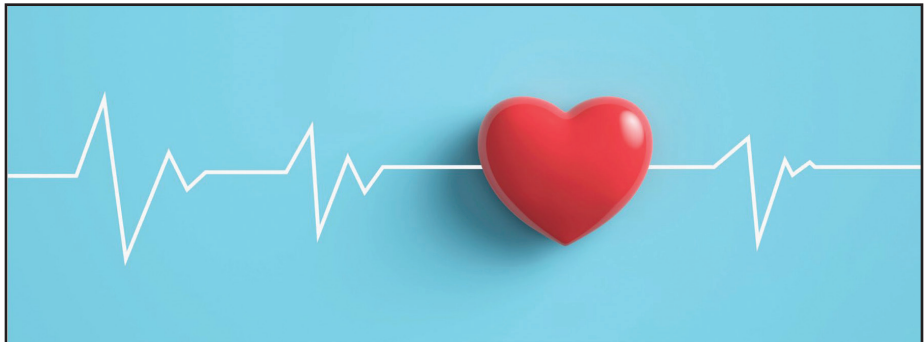
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## HAVING A BACKUP PLAN FOR MEDICAL DEVICES CAN BE LIFESAVING

**D**ue to a variety of reasons, it would be impossible for JREC to guarantee uninterrupted power. We all need to have a backup plan, but it is especially important for those who depend on lifesaving medical devices. For these times, it's essential to think ahead and not wait until you are facing a crisis.

If you or another person in your home depends on lifesaving medical equipment, please notify JREC or complete and return the lifesaving equipment form below. Additional safety tips include:

- Have an emergency plan in place with friends and family that outlines places you can go in the event of a long-term outage.
- Before an outage occurs, find out if the medical equipment safely runs on a backup power source and for how long (see manufacturer's recommendations). Have all user manuals located in one place, and keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer and serial numbers along with the emergency contact information for these devices.
- If recommended by the manufacturer, consider purchasing a portable battery pack to power medical devices.
- Keep a full charge on battery-powered devices or have extra batteries available.
- Keep your cell phone charged and be sure JREC has this cell number listed as your primary contact number. Also, be sure to have JREC's after-hour emergency number (866-273-5111) in your contacts.
- Gather two weeks' worth of resources such as batteries, supplemental equipment, and prescriptions. Think about the other special equipment you might need, such as coolers for refrigerated medicine.

### ***Yes, I depend on lifesaving equipment***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?  YES  NO

If you're on oxygen, how many hours of back-up do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this form to Jump River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848*

# BALANCE SHEET

(December 31, 2023)  
(Subject to Audit)

# OPERATING REPORT

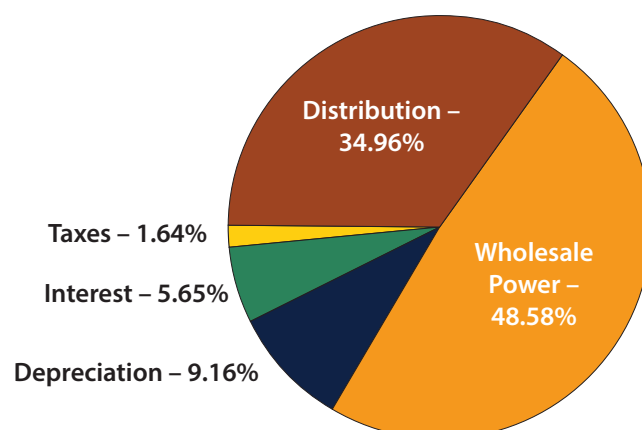
(Subject to Audit)

ASSETS	2023
Electric Utility Plant	\$59,027,273
Less Reserve for Depreciation	\$(17,053,301)
Net Utility Plant	\$41,973,971
Patronage Associated Organizations	\$6,735,396
Investments Associated Organizations	\$713,810
Other Investments	\$8,087
General Cash	\$68,048
Temporary Cash Investments	\$57,934
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Reserves)	\$1,825,252
Materials and Supplies	\$1,249,944
Other Current and Accrued Assets	\$138,787
Deferred Charges	\$58,658
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$52,829,887</b>

LIABILITIES	2023
Long Term Debt (RUS-NRUCFC)	\$29,103,770
Notes and Accounts Payable	\$1,700,565
Customer Deposits	\$490,673
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$719,114
Deferred Credits	\$1,286,985
Total Liabilities	\$33,301,107
Patrons' Capital Credits	\$25,898,828
Less Capital Credits Retired	\$(11,031,954)
Balance Capital Credits Outstanding	\$14,866,874
Retired Capital Credits-Gain	\$1,154,749
Membership Fees	\$45,360
Other Equities	\$3,461,797
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES</b>	<b>\$52,829,887</b>

For the Year	2023	2022
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b> .....	<b>\$16,406,482</b>	<b>\$16,257,304</b>
Operating Expenses		
Cost Of Power .....	\$7,970,586	\$8,246,338
Operations & Maintenance Expense.....	\$2,756,125	\$3,228,225
Collection & Billing Expense.....	\$395,570	\$438,692
Customer Service & Information Expense .....	\$102,631	\$103,193
Sales Expense .....	\$67,067	\$60,711
Administrative & General Expense.....	\$1,356,365	\$1,410,102
Depreciation .....	\$1,502,912	\$1,449,235
Taxes.....	\$269,105	\$255,565
Interest On Long-Term Debt .....	\$866,655	\$837,330
Other Deductions.....	\$64,913	\$26,907
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b> .....	<b>\$15,351,929</b>	<b>\$16,056,298</b>
Net Income From Operations .....	\$1,054,553	\$201,006
Non-Operating Income .....	\$588,715	\$619,794
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b> .....	<b>\$1,643,268</b>	<b>\$820,799</b>

## HOW YOUR 2023 DOLLAR WAS SPENT



## What We Did During 2023

New Services Built.....	119
Miles of Overhead Line Built/Removed .....	-6.25
Miles of Underground Line Installed/Removed.....	20.85
Poles Installed or Replaced.....	672
Services Changed for Increased Capacity .....	78





# JREC AT A GLANCE



**8,849**  
MEMBER OWNERS

**5.47**  
MEMBERS PER MILE OF LINE

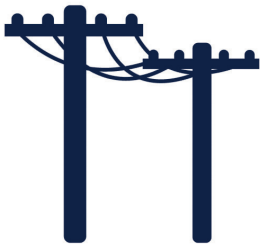
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1938**

FIRST ENERGIZED  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1940**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED SINCE 1984  
**\$285,550**

**19,126**

POLES IN SERVICE



**TWENTY-FOUR**  
DEDICATED EMPLOYEES



**1,825** TOTAL MILES OF LINE  
**926** MILES OF OVERHEAD LINE  
**899** MILES OF UNDERGROUND LINE

*"Our mission at Jump River Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable, safe, sustainable, and affordable utility services to the communities we serve."*

*– Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO*

**NINE**  
DIRECTOR-ELECTED DISTRICTS



DOLLARS GIVEN BACK IN REBATES TO MEMBERS IN 2023  
**\$85,206**

NUMBER OF RENTAL LIGHTS  
**713**

CONTROLLED WATER HEATERS  
**2,949**



## Who Are Our Members?

Residential .....	4,339
Seasonal.....	4,598
Commercial .....	661
Farms.....	295
Schools, Halls, Etc .....	44
Water Pumping .....	27
Industrial.....	19
Street Lights .....	4
<b>Total Meters Connected .....</b>	<b>9,987</b>



## 7 Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



## 2023 Interruptions of Electric Service

Maintenance/Planned.....	19
Material or equipment .....	52
Tree contact.....	116
Weather-related.....	22
Small animal/bird.....	61
Fire .....	4
Member-caused.....	11
Public-caused.....	12
<b>Total Outages.....</b>	<b>297</b>



# ANNUAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST FOR KIDS

During the months of March and April, we spend time at area schools providing our high energy, educational electrical safety demonstrations. These demonstrations play a vital role in our mission to keep our youth and community safe. JREC linemen, with the help of Neon Leon and Lightning Liz, teach students about the electrical hazards inside and outside their homes and schools. Students are always encouraged to share what they learn with their family and friends.

You may have a student who remembers this demonstration. If you are interested in taking a refresher course in electrical safety, go to [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org) or to our website [jrec.com/kids-safety-zone](http://jrec.com/kids-safety-zone). All ages can benefit from watching the “This is Your Licenses to Live” video found at [jrec.com/electrical-safety-information](http://jrec.com/electrical-safety-information). This video demonstrates what to

do in a car accident involving downed power lines.

We are in our 22nd year of offering an electrical safety poster contest for area youth ages 5 to 12. In addition to the JREC contest, the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association (WECA) is offering a third-grade-only poster contest. This contest is a terrific opportunity to put what you learned online or at school onto paper. Students in third grade can enter one poster into both contests.

## What you need

- Sheet of paper or poster board at least 8-1/2x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.
- Art supplies: crayons, colored pencils, or markers.
- Create an original poster supporting electrical safety.
- Complete entry ticket at left and attach to back of poster.
- Submit poster by **April 30, 2024**, to the Ladysmith office.

## What you could win

### JREC's poster contest:

- \$50 cash prize for first place and \$25 cash prize for second place.
- Prizes to be awarded per age category: 5–7 and 8–12.

### WECA's third-grade-only contest:

- \$25 gift card for first place and a chance to win statewide prizes:
  - First place: Chromebook
  - Second place: \$100 Gift Card
  - Third place: \$75 Gift Card

## JREC Poster Entry Ticket



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member Acct. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith WI 54848

Same form can be used for the third grade-only WECA poster contest.

# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Application deadlines are drawing near for the 33 scholarships offered to students who are active members or are dependents of an active member of Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000. The various scholarship opportunities are as follows:

- **High School Seniors can apply if they attend one of the following schools:** Bruce, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Flambeau, Gilman, Hayward, Ladysmith, Lake Holcombe, LCO, Rib Lake, Stanley-Boyd, and Winter. Please contact your guidance counselor for an application and deadline date.
- **Homeschool Seniors:** There are six scholarships available to homeschool seniors. **Deadline is June 15.**
- **Lineworker Scholarships:** Students who are attending a one-year Electric Power Distribution/Lineworker post-secondary school program are eligible to apply for one of the two scholarships being awarded in this category. **Deadline is May 1.**
- **Allen Beadles Memorial Scholarship:** JREC offers two, \$1,000 scholarships and non-traditional\* students are eligible to apply. **Deadline is June 15.**
- **Charles Kagigebi Memorial Scholarship:** Non-traditional\* students who are attending Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University (LCOOU) can apply. Please return your application to LCOOU's Financial Aid office by their set deadline.

\*A non-traditional student is defined as follows: Parent(s) of a dependent student or self is an active member of JREC and has received his/her GED or high school diploma for a minimum of one year prior to applying for the scholarship.



Eligibility requirements and applications can be found at [jrec.com/scholarships](http://jrec.com/scholarships). If you have any questions, please contact our office.





**LINeworker**  
*Appreciation*  
**DAY**  
**APRIL 8, 2024**

**#ThankaLineworker**  
They put their lives on the line to keep the power on and people safe.

## CELEBRATING THE **POWER** BEHIND THE **POWER**

**S**ome of the most visible employees of Jump River Electric Cooperative are our hard-working lineworkers. Rain or shine, day or night, lineworkers brave challenging conditions and work tirelessly to make sure you have electricity when you need it. They are typically the first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, fires, and damage from severe storms.

From learning the intricacies of the electric grid to climbing utility poles carrying 40+ pounds of equipment, these employees spend thousands of hours training and learning throughout their career. Before they can achieve a journeyman lineworker status, they must undergo training through an apprenticeship program and work full-time as an apprentice for 8,000 hours, or nearly four years.

### Safety comes first.

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members, and themselves. They spend many hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

Most recently, our office staff and line crews received their certification on the use of an automated external defibrillator

(AED), administration of first aid, and CPR. For the linemen, this training is especially critical as they often work in remote areas where medical help is often a long way away and they may only have minutes to receive lifesaving medical care.

### Who is powering your tomorrow?

This year on Lineworker Appreciation Day we would like to recognize the 11 dedicated linemen who keep the lights on for you. Together, they bring about 100 years of experience to our cooperative. Their dedication is nothing short of extraordinary and a testament to their commitment to powering our local communities.

We'd like to thank them and their families for all the sacrifices they make. Lineworkers miss a lot of family dinners and events, but they do this without complaint. They get satisfaction in seeing the lights come back on after an outage is restored. No matter how tired they are after working a long storm, they know they are making our lives better, and that makes it all worth it.

On April 8, or any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service to you. We also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs as deep.





# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024: NEW CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Jump River Electric Cooperative always strives to meet our members' expectations. If you are planning to build a new home, remodel, or make changes to your existing service, we request that you contact us four to six weeks prior to your anticipated start date.

To initiate the process, please provide your contact information and email a copy of the property's Warranty Deed to [jrec@jrec.com](mailto:jrec@jrec.com). Once our operations department receives your deed, they will reach out to you to discuss the next steps in the process. You can also find a helpful new service checklist online at [jrec.com/new-construction](http://jrec.com/new-construction) that will guide you through the necessary steps.

Please keep in mind that all required paperwork and payment for your project must be received before construction can begin. The cost of the electric service depends on the length of the line extension built and other associated fees. Refer to the chart at right for these fees.

We understand the importance of installing your new service promptly, and while we strive to accommodate short-notice requests, providing advance notice significantly aids in our efficiency. Additionally, we provide various products and services, including electric heat and water heaters as

well as Viasat high-speed internet. Take advantage of the rebates available to you through the Energy Sense program to maximize the cooperative difference.

NEW SERVICE FEES - SINGLE PHASE	
New Service / Staking Fee	\$800
Road Bore Fee	\$1,000
Cut in Pole or Underground Equipment	\$1,200
Footage Charge	
Up to 200 ft.	\$14/ft.
201 - 400 ft.	\$13/ft.
401 ft. +	\$7/ft.



**NEW PLANS AVAILABLE**  
**Faster Speeds – More Data**

Call us to find out what plans are available in your area.\*

**Speeds up to 100 Mbps**  
**Data up to 500 Gigs**

**JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP**


📞 715-532-5524    🌐 [www.jrec.com/viasat](http://www.jrec.com/viasat)


Free standard installation. Minimum 24-month service term. Taxes apply. Speeds are "up to" and are not guaranteed and will vary. See [jrec.com](http://jrec.com) for details. \*Package availability is based on where you live.




## Safety Tip

Know how to open your powered garage door manually after a power outage. Refer to manufacturer's instructions and teach other drivers and older kids in your home how to operate an electric garage door during a power outage, especially if there is an emergency.










1102 West 9th Street North • P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5524 (Ladysmith); 715-634-4575 (Hayward) • [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com)



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook (left) and Instagram (right).

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111  
Pay by Phone: 888-255-6489


Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram   

**Denise Zimmer, Editor**



**Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Minutes of the 85th Annual Meeting of the Membership • April 29, 2023

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative”) was held at the Cooperative’s office located in the Town of Flambeau, Rusk County, Wisconsin, and at the Hayward Outpost, Sawyer County, Hayward, Wisconsin; on Saturday, April 29, 2023. The two locations were connected via livestream. Registration began at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Myron Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed the cooperative members to the 85th Annual Meeting. Brooks asked those who have served or are currently serving in the military to stand to be recognized. Brooks then asked that all attendees stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.

Chairman Brooks reviewed the voting rules, explaining that returned absentee ballots could only be counted if they were returned by April 28 at 4 p.m. and that the only ballots that would be collected today would be the ones turned in during registration prior to the opening of the meeting.

Chairman Brooks announced Attorney Niles Berman would act as Parliamentarian of the meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Joe Lorence reported there were 91 members registered and declared there was a sufficient number to constitute an in-person quorum.

Attorney Berman reviewed the affidavit of mailing received from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association confirming that the official notice of meeting and the director election ballots were published in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN)* and mailed to 8,647 members on March 30, 2023. Berman stated that the rules of the meeting were also published in the *WECN* and given to members at registration.

The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were included in the April issue of the *WECN* and were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

Attorney Berman introduced the current directors, being District 1, Jane Reich; District 2, Myron Brooks; District 3, Joe Lorence; District 4, Jerry Carow; District 5, Bill van Doorn; District 6, Bill Amery; District 7, Jason Weaver; District 8, Walter Kruk; and District 9, Sandy Schara.

Attorney Berman introduced and thanked the election inspectors who were Doug Dicus, Darrell Doughty, Jerry Geisler, and Gene Ludvigsen working from Ladysmith; and Delores Brandt, Richard Gilbertson, Kathy Overman, and Vicky Palya working from the Hayward Outpost.

Attorney Berman introduced the current director candidates being District 3 – Joe Lorence, Sheldon; District 4 – Steven Jansen, William (Bill) Pfalzgraf; and Jay Waeltz, all of Ladysmith; and District 9 – Sandy Schara, Hayward.

Chairman Brooks reported on capital credits, scholarships, and the Community Cents program.

General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris thanked the members in attendance for their participation in the cooperative and read the auditor report as provided by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. Harris reported on the impact of the two major storms to the cooperative in 2022. He reported on supply-chain challenges,

broadband, and strategic goals.

Harris honored employees for their years of service without a lost-time accident and recognized employees recently hired and promoted. Director Carow was also recognized for his service on the Board of Directors.

Dairyland Power Cooperative’s (DPC) President & CEO Brent Ridge expressed gratitude for the members, his teammates, Dairyland Managers Association, and recognized JREC Board Member Jane Reich for her service on the DPC board. Ridge continued to review DPC’s service area, sustainability and reliability of the system, December storms, current renewable generation, DPC’s energy mix, and power plant development.

Attorney Berman introduced the Chairman of the Election Inspectors, Gene Ludvigsen, who then provided the board election and proposed bylaw amendments results, being as follows:

- District 3, Joe Lorence ran unopposed, received 368 votes, and was re-elected.
- District 4, Steven Jansen received 113 votes; William (Bill) Pfalzgraf received 169 votes; and Jay Waeltz received 172 votes, with Jay Waeltz being elected.
- District 9, Sandra Schara ran unopposed, received 368 votes, and was re-elected.
- Proposed Bylaw Amendment 1, which removed the day of week the annual meeting had to be held, was adopted on a vote of 376 in favor, and 74 opposed.
- Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2, which removed the requirement to video record board meetings was adopted on a vote of 311 in favor, and 146 opposed.

Attorney Berman stated that consistent with past practice, the ballots would be held for 30 days following the meeting and destroyed after that retention time unless directed differently by the membership. No objection or comments were made.

Harris answered questions on the possibility of adding a solar garden and the water heater load management program. Ridge answered questions on the Manitoba Hydro and Nemaadji Trail Energy Center power plants. A member also thanked the employees for their help during the December storm.

Chairman Brooks called for unfinished business and there was none.

Chairman Brooks called for new business and there was none.

The grand prize winner of a \$500 energy credit was Otto Butterfield, with \$100 energy credit winners being: Jerry Geisler, Dolores Denasha, Gene Ludvigsen, Mike Schaefer, Mark Busse, and Sam Stewart.

Being there was no further business to come before the meeting, Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

*Joe Lorence, Secretary – Treasurer*





# PLANTING A TREE FOR EARTH DAY?

April is #SafeDiggingMonth

CALL **811**  
at least three days  
**BEFORE YOU DIG**

Protect yourself and avoid damage to  
neighborhood underground utility lines.



Jump River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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