



WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE



By **Kurt Harris**,
General
Manager/CEO

Summer is well underway, and we've been busy making line improvements, hosting Member Appreciation Days, and attending various community events despite the rain showers.

Member Appreciation Days Thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual three-day picnic. We enjoyed catching up with many of you over brats, hotdogs, a soft serve ice cream cone or possibly even a root beer float. It's always a pleasure to serve you and hear your feedback on how things are going.

Community Support Concern for Community is not only our 7th Co-op Principle, but you'll find that our board, management team, and employees are dedicated to improving the communities we live in and serve. This summer, you may have seen some of our employees volunteering their time and representing JREC at several community parades, including Hayward's Musky Fest parade in July (below).



Join us for the National Night Out event at Memorial Park in Ladysmith on Tuesday, August 6, from 5–7 p.m. JREC will participate in this event because we believe that it not only helps build a stronger community, but it promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Enjoy free food, music, games, activities, giveaways, K-9 demonstrations, vehicle tours, boat rides, and more. Come see us at the park!

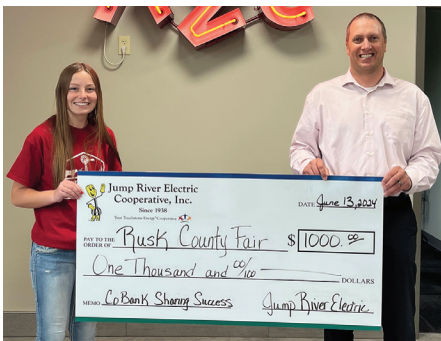
Outage Text Alerts Coming Soon To receive outage notification by text, members will first need to sign up for SmartHub, our online account portal. SmartHub, available as a web and mobile app, lets you manage your account, view and pay your bill, monitor your usage, and report any power outages 24/7. If you haven't signed up for this app yet, visit jrec.com today.

We anticipate adding text alerts as a new feature in the coming months. Stay tuned for updates in this magazine and on our website and Facebook page.

2024 Sharing Success Grants Awarded JREC once again utilized the Sharing Success grant program offered through CoBank, a national cooperative bank that matches charitable contributions made by its co-op members. We supported four local organizations using funds from the Federated Youth Foundation, founded through unclaimed capital credits.

Two of the four donations, each \$500 from CoBank and \$500 from JREC's Federated Youth Foundation, supported the Sawyer County and Rusk County Fairs. We are excited to help these long-standing community events and youth programs. The Rusk County Youth Council (RCYC) also received a \$1,000 donation to sponsor the National Night Out and other events that provide mental health awareness to our area youth.

The fourth grant of \$2,000 (\$1,000 each) went to the Christmas Wish program, now in its 28th year, which JREC has supported for many years. Watch this magazine for more information on making a Christmas Wish on behalf of a person or family in need during the holiday season.



RCYC Treasurer Bonny Nash (middle) and Vice-chair Cheyenne Makinia are shown below accepting the \$1000 donation from Harris.



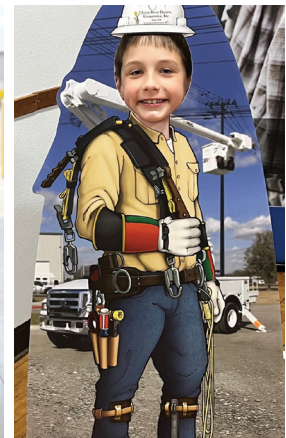
August is fair time! The Rusk County Fair will be held August 8–11 at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. Fair Intern Hannah Blackstock accepted the check on behalf of the Rusk County Fair (left) from JREC General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris. Sawyer County Fair Board President Rick Christian (right) accepted a \$1,000 donation from JREC's Line Superintendent Kraig Gay. The Sawyer County's Fair will be held August 15–18 at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds.

JREC MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

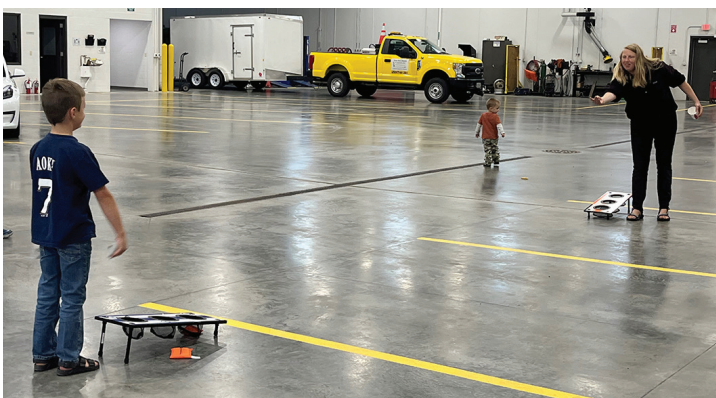
The three-day Member Appreciation Days event kicked off at the Jump River Community Center on June 26. Members who attended had a chance to catch up with their neighbors and friends over a lunch of brats, hotdogs, beans, chips, and ice cream! A few even enjoyed getting a behind the wheel view of our electric vehicle.



Many in attendance enjoyed the free tattoos, bean bag toss, and a disc drop game where they won a door prize.



These two young men had fun seeing what they looked like as a lineman.



A prize drawing for an air fryer was held at each location. Winners, clockwise starting upper left, were Bethanie Pollnow of Sheldon, Theresa Moore of Hayward, and Ron Naggatz of Ladysmith, shown with his wife, Mary.



TAKING CHARGE OF THE USS CONSTITUTION

Daughter of former interim JREC general manager is first from Wisconsin to command historic naval vessel

Navy Commander Crystal L. Schaefer became the 78th commander of the USS Constitution at a ceremony held on June 21, 2024, at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, MA. CDR Schaefer is daughter of members Michael and Debra Schaefer of Gilman. Michael Schaefer also served as JREC interim general manager from July 2021 to June 2022.

Commander Schaefer is a Medford native and the second female to take command of the Navy’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and America’s Ship of State. She also holds the honor of being the first USS Constitution commander ever from Wisconsin.

The USS Constitution was named by President George Washington and is a three-masted wooden-hulled heavy frigate of the United States Navy. This ship played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. It earned the nickname of “Old Ironsides” during the War of 1812, when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship’s wooden hull.

The USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents.

Today, the USS Constitution partners with the USS Constitution Museum to promote maritime heritage, naval service, and the legacy of Old Ironsides. The active-duty sailors stationed aboard the USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship’s mission of promoting the Navy’s history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence.



USS Constitution Commander Crystal Schaefer, center, with her parents, Debra and Michael Schaefer.

There was an audience of about 500 people who took part in the installation ceremony held this past June, including CDR Schaefer’s parents and several family members. CDR Schaefer’s personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corp Commendation medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (four awards), and various unit, campaign, and service awards.



About 500 people gathered in Boston, where the USS Constitution is docked, to see Medford native Crystal Schaefer installed as commander of the historic frigate in late June.



DIRECTOR VACANCY FILLED



Christine Beadles was appointed to fill the district 2 director vacancy at the June board meeting. District 2 includes the townships of Cleveland, Grover, Jump River, and Westboro in Taylor County; Hawkins, Lawrence, and Richland in Rusk County; and Kennan in Price County.

Along with her husband, Gary, Christine has lived in the Jump River area for 41 years. She taught in the Gilman School District for 38 years and has been an EMT/first responder in western Taylor County for 33 years. She enjoys volunteering, participating in local organizations, and helping her neighbors.

Christine shared her thoughts on joining the board: "When the opportunity to apply for the Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) District 2 directorship became available, I jumped at the chance. Being selected is exciting, and I look forward to learning and meeting new people. I am committed to serving the members of District 2, and all JREC, in a positive way.

"I have always been interested in the Jump River Electric Co-op as they support our communities through safety education, scholarships, and energy conservation programs. Power to our homes and businesses is taken for granted until the unthinkable happens and it is no longer there at the flip of a switch. In these times, the reliability and professionalism of all employees is impressive. I do have background knowledge about electric cooperatives and how they work, but I have a lot to learn.

"Moving forward, I am determined to increase my knowledge and work hard for the members of JREC. My goal is to do what I can to keep rates affordable for our members in this ever-changing world. Myron Brooks has left some big shoes to fill, but I will give it my best."

"My goal is to do what I can to keep rates affordable for our members in this ever-changing world. Myron Brooks has left some big shoes to fill, but I will give it my best."

YOU COULD WIN A \$50 BILL CREDIT

Dig out that camera (or phone) and start snapping. We are interested in seeing the beauty of rural life within JREC's service territory through your lens. Submit your best three photos for a chance to win one of three prizes in our photo contest.

Photos need to be in their original digital format and not manipulated with any enhancement software. Please also send them in a high-resolution format of at least 300 dpi, if possible. Find all the guidelines at jrec.com/photo-contest. Submit photos to dzimmer@jrec.com by September 25, 2024.



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

AUGUST 11

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY

Before you dig into an outdoor project, #Call811 and know what's below as your location may contain underground utility lines. Knowing where utility lines are buried can help you avoid injury, service outages, and costly repairs.

Call 811 at least three business days prior to digging, and you'll be routed to your local call center. Tell the operator where you will be digging, what type of work you will be doing and when. Don't just dig in!

If a contractor has been hired to do the work, confirm that a call to 811 has been made. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.

Each utility type is marked with a specific color:

- Red for electric
- Yellow for natural gas
- Orange for telecommunications
- Blue for water
- Green for sewage

Visit www.call811.com for more information.



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



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.