




# DECEMBER STORM WREAKS HAVOC ACROSS JREC SERVICE TERRITORY



Jump River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By Kurt Harris,  
General Manager

**I**ce followed by 10 or more inches of heavy snow during December's winter storm caused much devastation throughout our service area. Many trees and branches came down onto Jump River Electric Cooperative's power lines, breaking the lines and poles as they fell. One member described the scene outdoors as one that looked like a tornado had gone through, followed by a lot of snow. Other members, a few in their 90s, said they had never seen anything like this in their lifetime.

As outage calls came in, our crews immediately went out. Power restoration was slow going due to many impassable roads and the extent of storm damage.

We were able to get help early on from neighboring cooperatives through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Crews from Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op, Pierce-Pepin Cooperative Services, Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op, Price Electric Co-op, St. Croix Electric Co-op, and Taylor Electric Co-op worked alongside JREC crews. In total, we had 19 extra linemen assisting us at one point or another.

Along with the additional cooperative linemen, Zielies Tree Service provided multiple crews and equipment that went ahead of crews in some of the hardest hit areas, clearing trees and branches from the lines. Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, also provided a line clearing crew that aided JREC in the same manner. This not only helped expedite the restoration efforts, but it would have been almost impossible to get into some areas without their help.

Power restoration to all members was quicker than initially anticipated due to all the extra help received. This was a true demonstration of one of the cooperative principles this co-op was founded on, which is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We have been able to help other co-ops in the past through the ROPE program and



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Storm damage meant some lines weren't accessible from the road, leaving linemen to trudge through deep snow to make needed repairs. Crews worked into the late evening for several days.



we are very grateful for all the help we received from other cooperatives this past December and over the years.

The cooperative had approximately 4,000 members out of power following the storm. This number decreased to around 1,500 members by late Friday night, and by Sunday night JREC had restored power to all but approximately 60 members. Power was restored to the remaining members by Monday evening.

When storms create havoc with electric infrastructure, like we saw this past December, the much-needed additional personnel and equipment are extremely valuable. We understand that people need electricity and we always put forth our best effort to restore power as quickly and safely as conditions allow.

### Storm Preparedness Tips

If you do not already have a storm safety kit, we encourage you to put one together. You can find a list of what should be included within this kit at [jrec.com/electrical-safety-information](http://jrec.com/electrical-safety-information). Be sure to let your utility know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel. Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to their crews and the community. You should never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.



Crews from six neighboring electric cooperatives assisted with power restoration.



### Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to our members for your patience, support, and kind words of appreciation received by phone, email, and on our Facebook page. When you have been working in harsh weather conditions all day and night, these encouraging messages help keep you going.

We also want to thank Pat's Landing Resort in Hayward, who called us on Friday night of the storm asking if they could provide lodging for the visiting lineworkers free of charge. Dave Kaczmariski, a lineworker with St. Croix Electric, said, "They bent over backwards for us." Visiting linemen were provided with snacks, drinks, and breakfast in their rooms, and they were able to use the washer and dryer so they could have clean clothes. JS Supper Club in Ladysmith also opened its doors to cook for the line crew. Thank you for cooking a warm meal for our crew and for providing a place to warm up.



# A FOND FAREWELL TO JOHN MORAVEC

John Moravec recently retired after more than 27 years as the cooperative's mechanic. Looking back, we believe he probably worked on about 60 vehicles (bucket/digger trucks, pickup trucks, cars, ASVs, backhoes, and more) during those 27 years, which shows the vast mechanical knowledge he brought to the cooperative.



John Moravec

When we asked him to describe the biggest change he had experienced in his line of work, John said it would have to be how the vehicles themselves have changed over the years. He said it was much easier servicing a vehicle back in 1995. Vehicles are not only built differently today, but they also have many electronic features that John had to learn to work with over the years.

John was known amongst the cooperative community for having an immaculate shop. Everything was clean, in order, and in stock. However, John's job involved much more than maintaining vehicles and keeping a neat shop. He worked closely with operations and helped the linemen during storms, which helped shorten the time members were out of power. You could say he was the go-to person for a lot of things other than mechanical work, from building and lawn maintenance to helping organize cooperative events.

Safety is a top priority at Jump River Electric and John played an important role in our safety program. Not only did he keep the trucks maintained and in working order, he also helped make sure tools, shelving, and line materials were in order and ready for use. He even helped make sure first-aid, personal protective equipment, and other safety-related supplies were available when needed. He was committed to doing his part in making sure that everyone went home safe every day.

"It has been an honor to work with John here at Jump River Electric," GM/CEO Kurt Harris said. "John has been a true

cooperative employee as he was all about serving the members. His vast knowledge, strong work ethic, and energetic sense of humor will be missed around the cooperative. I wish him all the best in his retirement but know he won't be slowing down any time soon."

Operations Manager Jordan Behrendt said, "Johnny is one of the kindest people you would ever meet. He would drop everything he was doing to help you out and his lunch box was always full of snacks to give away. He kept the shop spotless and organized. Johnny is quite the jokester and an exceptional person."

With retirement, John said he is looking forward to deciding his own schedule and being able to do what he wants, when he wants to do it. That includes spending more time with his family and grandkids. John will also work on growing his snow-plowing and lawn-mowing business that he has had for many years. He is looking forward to being able to work more with his son doing construction work.

When asked how he felt about retiring, John said, "Most of all, thank you to the members for the opportunity to work for you for all these years. I have been a member this entire time and did everything in my power to save where we could."

We will miss John, but we are all excited for what he has ahead of him in his retirement. Our best wishes, John!



Director Bill van Doorn (left) was acknowledged at a recent board meeting for receiving his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). To earn a BLC, directors complete 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented training from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 'HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS' GINGERBREAD WINNERS



Each winner received a \$50 energy credit. Pictured from left: gingerbread ski chalet submitted by Luke, Julia, and Joelle of Holcombe; gingerbread barn submitted by Jason and Mason of Sheldon; gingerbread house submitted by Gini and grandkids Leo and Eddie of Hayward.

# CO-OP PRINCIPLE 3

## Education, Training & Information in Action

Here at Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) we believe education is the key to the future. That is why we offer scholarships and encourage youth to participate in the annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) where students take part in three days of activities aimed at building leadership skills.

### \$33,000 in Scholarship Available

JREC is offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating homeschool or high school seniors and non-traditional students who enroll at an accredited school this fall. Students must be active members or dependents of active members to be eligible. Monies for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. Contact your high school guidance counselor or go to [jrec.com/scholarships](http://jrec.com/scholarships) to find out more about JREC's scholarship opportunities and how you can apply.

If you have any questions about our scholarship program or the YLC, please contact Denise Zimmer at 715-532-5524.

### Youth Program

The annual YLC will be held July 11-13 at the UW-Stout campus. JREC sponsors students from high schools within our service territory. Students will learn more about how to become positive leaders within their schools and communities. If you are interested in finding out more about this all-expenses-paid conference, contact your guidance counselor or go to [jrec.com/youth-leadership-conference](http://jrec.com/youth-leadership-conference).



### There's still time!

This is a reminder that if your primary residence is in Districts 3, 4, or 9 and you're interested in being a candidate for the upcoming director election at the 85th annual meeting, to be held April 29, 2023, the deadline for submitting your completed Petition for Director Nomination is **February 28, 2023**. This is also the deadline for submitting proposed resolutions.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GIANT STOCKING WINNERS!

HO, HO, HO! This year's stocking winners are (left to right) Isla (4, pictured with JREC General Manager Kurt Harris) and Bennett (2), from Ladysmith; and Sophia (9) and Atlas (8) from Hayward. Sophia's mom kept the fact that she had won the stocking a secret until she arrived at the Hayward office. Imagine her surprise and wide eyes when she found out she was the winner of so many toys, games, a sledding saucer, and so much more.

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Denise Zimmer, Editor



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