

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2022



**LINEWORKER APPRECIATION
DAY • April 11**



**DIRECTOR ELECTION
BALLOT INSIDE**



#POWERON

THIS IS YOUR REGISTRATION STUB!

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



Notice of the 2022 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Meeting Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Membership Business Meeting: 10 a.m.

You can attend this meeting one of two ways:

- **In-person meeting** to be held in the Ladysmith Middle & High School Auditorium at 1700 Edgewood Ave E., Ladysmith, Wisconsin, or
- **By livestream** at the Hayward outpost office located at 13895 W County Highway B, Hayward, Wisconsin.

Members will be able to vote by meeting-day ballot prior to the start of the meeting at both locations.

Action will be taken on the following items of business:

1. Reports from guest speaker, directors, and employees.
2. Approval of 2021 minutes.
3. The election of three directors for a three-year term: one each from districts 2, 7, and 8 (see pages 16–16a).
4. Such other business as may come before the meeting.
5. Adjourn

THREE VOTING OPTIONS – One Vote Per Membership

See page 15 for details on the three different ways you can cast your vote.

PRIZES

- **\$1,000 IN ENERGY CREDITS:** Drawings will be held at the end of the meeting. Members have a chance to win one of five \$100 energy credits or the grand prize, which is a \$500 energy credit. **Members must be present (at either location) to receive a prize.**
- **\$25 ENERGY CREDIT:** A \$25 energy credit and a cinch tote with JREC merchandise will be given to each registering membership who attends the business meeting.



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ABSENTEE BALLOT LOCATED ON PAGE 16c



IMPORTANT:
THIS IS YOUR
REGISTRATION CARD

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

Only JREC members and their immediate family members are eligible for prize drawings.

You MUST be present to win.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP

Let your voice be heard



By Michael Schaefer, Interim Manager

WOW, it was almost three years ago that I reported to the Taylor Electric Cooperative membership at what I thought was my last annual meeting. Now I find myself back at it and preparing to address the members of Jump River Electric as the interim CEO. Not only do I realize how privileged I am to have served the members of this cooperative as interim CEO, but also that I am a member-owner of a well-run, polished, member-driven organization.

In some ways you could look at the annual meeting of members as a pep rally with gifts, displays, and handout materials. Yet, there is the ownership and pride that are shared by each member who takes part in the business of this special day. You get an opportunity to speak with employees, other members, and most importantly, the board members who represent you. We'll talk about recent successes and opportunities we're looking at—all for the betterment of JREC members.

It may seem trivial to many members, but letting your voice be heard and participating in the annual meeting is so important to the continued success of the organization. Many no longer know or care about the history of the co-op

in bringing electricity to areas no one else would serve. But underlying all of this is the infrastructure that JREC has built and developed to maintain a high level of service to make rural life possible in Northwest Wisconsin.

We've opened the door to make voting available to members using modern technologies. Without member voting,

we cannot meet our lawful requirements for the governance structure that is the cooperative. This year, members are being asked to vote on director elections for districts 2, 7, and 8 as well as approve the 2021 annual meeting minutes. Please

take a few minutes to do your duty and vote, either online, by absentee ballot, or in person at the annual meeting.

As in the past, the annual meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School. New this year, members can participate in this meeting from the Hayward outpost, where the annual meeting will be livestreamed. We promise to keep it short, get the business done timely, provide each member attending a nice credit on your electric bill, give you a chance to win even more energy credits, and maybe even entertain you a bit. Pep rally, here we come!



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

VOTE ONE OF THREE WAYS



1. ELECTRONIC BALLOT:

Members can cast a web ballot online through SmartHub (an online account portal). You will need to follow the instructions on page 16b to use this option. Online voting will open on April 1 and close April 28 at 4 p.m.



2. ABSENTEE BALLOT:

An absentee ballot can be found on page 16c. Follow the ballot instructions and either mail or drop off your ballot so it is received at the JREC office by 4 p.m. on or before April 29.



3. MEETING-DAY BALLOT:

Members who attend the annual meeting on April 30 and have not cast a ballot prior to the meeting will receive a meeting-day ballot. Ballots can be obtained from the person at the registration table until the opening of the meeting at 10 a.m.

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Practice Cooperative Principle #2 – Democratic Member Control, by casting your vote

You, as the members of Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC), elect the directors that comprise the nine-person JREC Board of Directors. Each year, three seats on the board are up for election with each elected director serving a three-year term. All members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote before or at the annual meeting on April 30.

Members can vote one of three ways: by absentee ballot, electronically through SmartHub, or in-person at the annual meeting. Select the best method of voting and cast your ballot. The absentee ballot can be found on page 16c of this magazine.

REMINDERS:

- You can vote for one person per district.
- There is only one vote per membership.

DISTRICT 2

MYRON BROOKS, Gilman, Incumbent

Hello Jump River Electric Cooperative members,

My name is Myron Brooks, and I am running for re-election to the District 2 Jump River Electric Board of Directors position. I have been honored to have served on the Jump River Electric board for the past six years and have served as board chair for the past two. Being a part of this organization has been exciting and I am optimistic for the opportunities that can be available to our Jump River Electric members. I enjoy hearing some of the legislation that is being presented and figuring out how it can be applied to help with energy supply and demand to the members of the Jump River Electric Cooperative Community, and Northern Wisconsin.

I am proud to live in rural Wisconsin. I have lived in the town of Jump River my entire life. I raised five daughters here, and I wouldn't have wanted to do it anywhere else. I raise angus beef cattle and cash crop soybeans and corn on the family farm. I look forward to the summer months, attending the local county fairs, watching my grandchildren show their horses and beef cattle, and seeing friends and neighbors out in the community.

I see how technology is changing lives for good in some areas of Wisconsin and I want those same opportunities for the families in my community. I am the chairman of the Town of Jump River and a supervisor on the Taylor County Board of Supervisors. I am active in our community. I have been a charter member of our local Lions Club.

I'm excited to bring new technological advances and provide safe, economical, environmentally sound energy to those in rural communities.

Thank you for your support
Myron Brooks



DISTRICT 7

JASON WEAVER, Hayward, Incumbent

Hello, fellow cooperative members. I am Jason Weaver and I am an Army veteran ('92-'95) and a citizen of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. My education includes an Associate of Science degree from LCOOCC, a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Sustainable Business Management from the University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota.

I am currently employed as the facilities director for the Lac Courte Oreilles Schools. I have worked in the public works sector for most of my career in St. Croix, City of Milwaukee, and LCO Public Works. I have served on the Jump River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for the last three years. I previously served on the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board from 2015 to 2019, the Lac Courte Oreilles Financial Services Board of Directors, and as the vice chairman of the Native American Financial Services Association Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. I currently sit on the Sawyer County board and various committees.

I believe I bring a unique skill set, education, and experiences to the board at Jump River Electric. I am open to all ideas and understand the need to meet our membership's changing needs. I am thankful for the education I have accumulated in the last three years and hope to continue to serve my community and fellow members moving forward.



**DISTRICT 8****WALTER KRUK,**
Hayward, Incumbent

My name is Walter Kruk, but everyone knows me as Wally. I have been on the Jump River Board of Directors for the past six years as your District 8 representative. I am seeking a third term on the board and would appreciate your vote.

My board background started with serving on the board of directors and then as the president of Sims Motor Credit Union in Riverdale, Illinois, from 1976 to 1980. When I moved to Hayward area in 1982, I served as a member of the City of Hayward Fire Department for 14 years, the Town of Round Lake Fire Department for 5 years, and as an EMT with the Sawyer County Ambulance for 12 years. I have served as president for the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) for one year and on the Wild Land Fire Fighting with the Department of Natural Resources for six years.

I have been involved with Fishing Has No Boundaries as a volunteer since 1993 and am currently serving on the Hayward Chapter's board and finance committee. I am also on the board of directors for the Hayward Rod and Gun Club. I have been involved with communications for the American Birkebeiner for the past 25 years. Also, I am serving as the emergency communications coordinator for Amateur Radio for Sawyer County.

My parents first became members of Jump River Electric in 1964 and I have been with Jump River as a member since that time. As you can tell, I believe in becoming involved in positive ways in my community.

When I was first elected to the board to represent District 8, the board was in turmoil with the membership. Since then, the Board of Directors has made a complete turnaround by becoming more transparent with the membership and by giving the membership more of a voice. Jump River Electric members seem to be happy with the new visibility of meetings and proceedings. I am glad to say that I have been part of that turnaround and proud that our board is in better standing with our members.

In the last six years with Jump River, I have gone through many training programs to help me become a better board member. I received my Credentialed Cooperative Director Program certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I also received my certificate for Board Leadership Program.

I have been and will always be available to the Jump River members for any suggestions, comments, or complaints that they may have. Again, I would appreciate your vote at our annual meeting or by mail-in ballot. Thank you for your consideration.

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 seven members, none of whom is an incumbent director or candidate for director. The rules and procedures approved by the committee are as follows:

2022 Annual Meeting Rules

1. Members may attend in person either at the Ladysmith High School or remotely 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. The only ballot voting will be as described in #4, below.
3. Any proposed resolution on policy affecting Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (JREC), was required to be submitted by March 1, 2022, 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 and approval of the Minutes of the 2021 annual meeting. Members may vote in any one of three ways:
 - You may mark and return the Absentee Ballot included in the April issue of the *WECN*, in a signed envelope, so that it is received at the JREC office by 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 2022; or
 - You may vote electronically, according to the instructions provided by JREC, provided you cast your electronic votes no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2022; or
 - If you did not vote by timely Absentee Ballot or electronic vote, you may attend the annual meeting at either location, request a Meeting-day Ballot, and cast that ballot up to the time the Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (Ballots will not be accepted after that time).
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.
6. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as supplemented by these Rules. The President as 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 unfinished and new business sessions and after the President's Report, General Manager's report, and Auditor's Statement have been presented.

HOW TO VOTE Using SmartHub

Follow the instructions below to establish a SmartHub account. If you have an account, log in to SmartHub and proceed to Step 1 (right) to cast your electronic vote. Electronic voting opens April 1 and closes April 28 at 4 p.m.

How to create a SmartHub Account

With SmartHub, you can pay your bills, manage the bank and card information for stored payment methods, view your usage, report problems with your service, contact JREC, and now cast your electronic vote. SmartHub is a web and mobile app.

Getting started is easy. If you don't already have online access to your account, you can quickly sign up for it. You can find a link to SmartHub at our website, www.jrec.com. Click on the "Pay Online" button at the top of our website.

Step 1: Then click on "Sign up to access our Self Service site" from the SmartHub log-in page. (right)

Step 2: Enter the requested account information in order to verify your identity. Answers must match account info exactly. Then click Submit. (below)

Step 3: If successful, you'll get a notification that says "Congratulations! Your registration is complete. You will receive an email with a temporary password. Use it to log in and change your password."

Step 4: Check your inbox for an email that will contain your temporary password to first log-in to your account.

Step 5: Back on the log-in page, enter email and temporary password and click Login. (right)

Step 6: The first time you log in, you'll be asked to change your password. (below)

Once you're logged into SmartHub you can cast your vote by following the steps on this page.

Step 1: Click on the "Vote Now" tab at top.

Step 2: The Client Election Screen will open, and you can view the director bios and bylaw information from this screen. Vote for 1 candidate per district and Yes or No for each Bylaw Amendment. Click on the "Go to Ballot Confirmation" to view summary of ballot.

Step 3: You can view and/or change your vote from this summary screen. Click "Submit Ballot" once you are ready to cast your vote. You can also print a record of your ballot summary.

Step 4: Click Logout





ABSENTEE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

The ballot on this page is an absentee ballot ONLY and is to be completed and mailed according to the below instructions. Copies of this ballot will not be accepted.

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, and on the approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes.
2. Enclose the completed ballot in an envelope, add **BALLOT** and your **SIGNATURE** to the outside of the envelope (see example).
3. Enclose the ballot envelope inside an envelope to be mailed, add your name and return address in the upper left-hand corner and mail to:

Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer
Jump River Electric Cooperative
PO Box 99
Ladysmith WI, 54848



Absentee ballots must reach the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 29, 2022, and will not be accepted at the 84th annual meeting. Copies of this ballot will not be accepted. Only one ballot will be accepted per membership.

(Members can also vote by electronic ballot (see page 16b) or in person at the Annual Meeting with a meeting-day ballot.)

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

DISTRICT 2

☐

Myron Brooks

DISTRICT 7

☐

Jason Weaver

DISTRICT 8

☐

Walter Kruk

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes can be found on the inside of the back cover of this magazine or online at jrec.com/board-meeting-expense-information.

Members are being asked to vote on the approval of these minutes. If you would like to approve these minutes, please vote "For Approval". If you do not want to approve the minutes, please vote "Against Approval".

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented:

☐

For Approval

☐

Against Approval

BALANCE SHEET (December 31, 2021) (Subject to Audit)

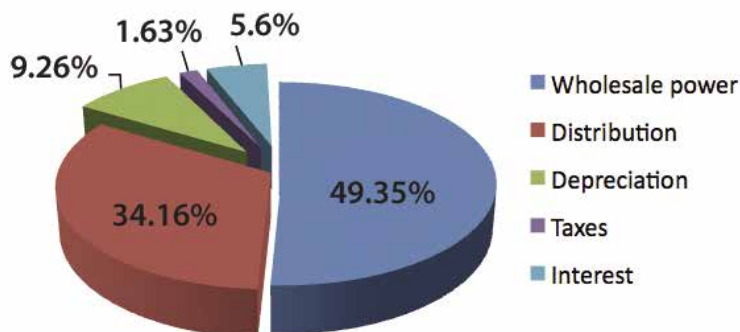
ASSETS	2021
Electric Utility Plant	\$55,570,387
Less Reserve for Depreciation	\$(15,237,514)
Net Utility Plant	\$40,332,873
Patronage Associated Organizations	\$6,189,731
Investments Associated Organizations	\$711,310
Other Investments	\$8,033
General Cash	\$94,276
Temporary Cash Investments	\$4,405
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Reserves)	\$1,299,438
Materials and Supplies	\$336,584
Other Current and Accrued Assets	\$114,696
Deferred Charges	\$99,656
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$49,191,002</u>

LIABILITIES	2021
Long Term Debt (RUS-NRUCFC)	\$26,644,511
Notes and Accounts Payable	\$3,623,507
Customer Deposits	\$332,626
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$779,460
Deferred Credits	\$106,290
Total Liabilities	\$31,486,394
Patrons' Capital Credits	\$23,937,090
Less Capital Credits Retired	\$(10,140,129)
Balance Capital Credits Outstanding	\$13,796,961
Retired Capital Credits – Gain	\$899,504
Membership Fees	\$48,675
Other Equities	\$2,959,468
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES	<u>\$49,191,002</u>

OPERATING REPORT (Subject to Audit)

	For the Year 2021	2020
Total Operating Revenue	<u>\$15,136,460</u>	<u>\$14,772,671</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Cost of Power	\$7,429,179	\$7,631,564
Operations and Maintenance Expense	\$3,029,479	\$2,492,665
Collection and Billing Expense	\$481,837	\$491,265
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$96,326	\$92,274
Sales Expense	\$96,786	\$88,367
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,433,992	\$1,474,677
Depreciation	\$1,394,272	\$1,319,724
Taxes	\$245,859	\$231,629
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$765,892	\$696,748
Other Deductions	\$81,697	\$175,284
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$15,055,319</u>	<u>\$14,694,197</u>
Net Income from Operations	\$81,141	\$78,474
Patronage Capital Allocations (DPC-NRUCFC) and other Non-Operating Income	<u>\$536,536</u>	<u>\$425,650</u>
TOTAL MARGINS FOR THE PERIOD	<u>\$617,677</u>	<u>\$504,124</u>

HOW YOUR 2021 DOLLAR WAS SPENT



What We Did During 2021

New Services Built	145
Miles of Overhead Line Built/Removed	-4.32
Miles of Underground Line Installed/Removed	16.04
Poles Installed or Replaced	379
Services Changed for Increased Capacity	67



WORKING TOGETHER...WORKING FOR YOU!

Jump River Electric Cooperative is more than just your local co-op.

We are your resource for information and other services.

Here are a few of the ways your cooperative is at work for you.

- **Community Cents** – Your change can make change. Members who opt-in to this program have their bill rounded up each month to the nearest dollar. The average member will see about \$6/year go towards this program.



Funds collected from this program can be applied for by members and non-profit organizations.

- **Community Room** – Our community/training room is open for use by non-profit or JREC member-affiliated groups. See more details at jrec.com.

- **Dusk to Dawn Rental Program** – Call to see if you are eligible for this program.



- **Electric Heat Systems and Dual Fuel Rates** – We can help you with your electric heat needs. This program helps put electric heat in your home at a reduced kilowatt-hour rate, plus rebates available for some new systems.

- **Electric Safety or Energy Efficiency Resources** – JREC is your local resource on these matters. Go to jrec.com and find many tips and guidelines as well as links to other organizations that can provide help on these topics.

- **Electric Water Heaters** – We sell and service water heaters on the water heater program. Members can also take advantage of rebates or receive a FREE 50-gallon electric water heater with a new construction or when replacing a gas water heater with an electric one.



- **Energy Sense** – This is our rebate program. You can receive rebates on electric appliances, electric vehicle chargers, lights, water heaters, heat pumps, home energy audits, dairy rebates, renewable systems, and much more.

Energy Sense
Together we can...Together we will



- **Evergreen** – We understand that purchasing a private renewable system is not feasible for all members. With Evergreen, members still can support renewable energy in increments of 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks for just \$1 per block per month.

- **Prepaid Metering** – Take charge of your electric bill through this program.



- **Scholarships** – JREC offers \$30,000 in scholarship opportunities for high school, homeschooled, and non-traditional students. You can also read more about the lineworker scholarship on page 16h.

- **SmartHub** – This is an online account portal where you can pay your bill in real time, set recurring payments, compare monthly bills, view your usage, notify JREC of outages, and vote electronically.



- **Viasat High Speed Internet** – Enjoy speeds up to 30 Mbps. Packages start as low as \$59.99.

- **Youth Programs** – JREC believes in helping our youth. We provide electrical safety demonstrations, scholarships, and sponsor area youth to the Youth Leadership Congress, an event that helps build leaders for tomorrow.

Find more information about JREC's services listed above and more online at jrec.com.

Who Are Our Members?

Residential	4,265
Seasonal.....	4,485
Commercial	633
Farms.....	303
Schools, Halls, Etc	45
Water Pumping	31
Industrial.....	22
Street Lights	4
Total Meters Connected	9,788

2021 Interruptions of Electric Service

Power supply	7	Small animal/bird	72
Maintenance/Planned	19	Customer-caused	13
Material or equipment fault/failure	54	Motor vehicle	6
Tree contact.....	129	Fire	2
Weather-related	17	Miscellaneous	37
		Total Outages	356

MARCH ICE STORM PRESENTED MANY CHALLENGES

Winter snow and ice can look beautiful glistening off the stark branches of trees. It is picturesque, that is, until the weight of that snow and ice snaps a limb off the tree, bringing it down onto wires carrying the electricity to your home and knocking out the power. This beauty quickly fades and changes into challenges you now face due to a power outage.

The ice storm that swept across Hayward on March 5 hit our service territory, breaking seven poles and downing miles and miles of power lines. The outages were widespread, and our line crews discovered early on that many roads were impassible and there was more damage than expected. Between 60 to 70 percent of our

Hayward members were affected by this storm.

Due to dangerous road conditions, line crews were limited to what they could do on Saturday. Our crews continued their work on Sunday, restoring power to all but about 900 members. Monday brought help from seven additional line crews from neighboring cooperatives and Dairyland Power Cooperative. Jump River Electric is part of ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency). This program allows our co-op to help (and get help from) neighboring cooperatives during a major outage by sharing crews, equipment, and materials.

By late Monday evening, power was restored to all but a little over 300 members. Crews went back out early Tuesday and by early afternoon, the final outages were resolved.





Assistant Manager Kurt Harris stated, “The employees at Jump River Electric would like to thank our members for their patience and support. The kind words and appreciation members expressed to the dedicated linemen out in the field make those long days feel rewarding.”

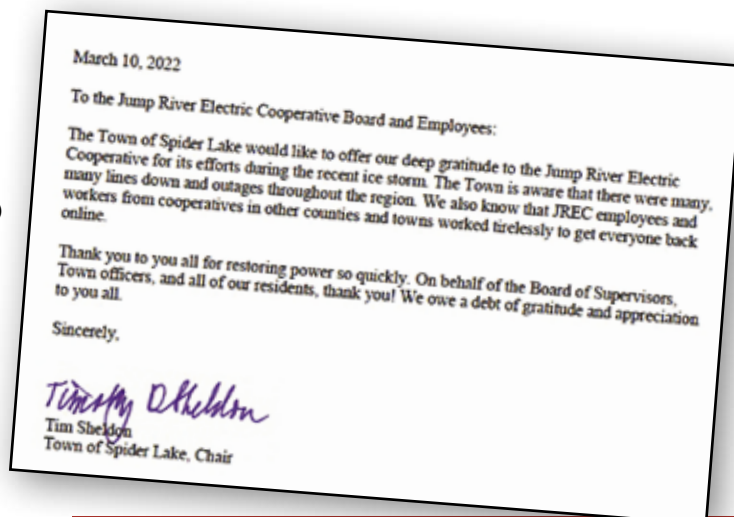
Kurt is referring to the many emails (like the one at right) and Facebook posts we received during and after the outage was resolved, like these:


- **Mary Klaas** – *Thank you, Jump River, for working long cold hours to restore power in our area. We appreciate you very much! Thank you to all the neighboring co-ops for all your help!*
- **Sue Rosenquist** – *Thank you to all the crews out on the roads and power lines! I know it is a cold and dangerous job. And for the staff that has to take all the calls. I'm sure it has been a stressful weekend. We just got our power back after 40 hours. To those still waiting, take heart, they are on their way!!*
- **Ashley Schroeder** – *Thank you for your hard work and long hours linemen!*

We would also like to thank Bayfield Electric Cooperative, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, Dunn Energy Cooperative, Price Electric Cooperative, and Dairyland Power Cooperative for coming to our aid, and reducing the time members were out of power.


JREC's number one priority is keeping our employees, members, and community safe. We recommend that you have an emergency kit ready for use when unexpected winter or summer storms hit. Please go to jrec.com for a list of kit supplies. We also suggest you post our after-hour emergency phone number (866-273-5111) in a spot where everyone in the house can find it, and add this same number to everyone's cell phones or iPads.

A generator is great for helping to keep your family safe and warm when the power goes out. However, if you do not know how to operate a generator correctly, you might be putting your family in harm's way. For more information on the safe operation of portable and stand-by generators, visit jrec.com or SafeElectricity.org.






HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE




Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.



ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Respect **roadside** work crews.




Don't drive distracted.
Reduce your speed.
Change lanes.


1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**

70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**

12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**




Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could **electrocute** a utility worker or neighbor.





DON'T post signs on **utility poles**.

Foreign objects can **tear** utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an **electric shock**.



Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!



Learn more at  **SafeElectricity.org**

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11. Here are some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work outdoors in all kinds of weather, at any time of day. These individuals work tirelessly to keep electricity flowing to the places where we live, work, and play.

Did you know that before you can become a journeyman lineworker, you must first complete an apprentice program? This program can take 8,000 hours of training (or about four years). That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Pictured at right are JREC's two most recent graduates from the apprentice lineworker school. Marcus graduated in 2020 and Rowdy in 2021, but due to COVID-19 the ceremony was postponed until this past January.



Marcus



Rowdy

Despite the many challenges, JREC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, like the most recent ice storm, lineworkers are among the first ones called. In fact, they are typically out working to restore power before roads are salted or cleared of debris. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. JREC has 12 linemen who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,800 miles of power lines across six counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks they perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire.

Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

\$1,000 Lineworker Scholarship Available

Application deadline is June 15. JREC offers one \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education in an electric lineworker program. High school graduates and non-traditional students can apply. Go to jrec.com/scholarships for the criteria on who can apply, and which high schools are eligible for this scholarship. The application for this scholarship can also be found at jrec.com.

WE NEVER STOP.

Not everyone starts their day at the same time, or in the same way. But no matter when or how, your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is there to help you power every moment of it.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Traditionally, April brings a ground swell of outdoor work, which often includes digging. Whether it is a small project or a large home-improvement project, be sure to call 811 before starting any digging project.

Did you know, every six minutes

an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811? The risk of injury, or even death is serious. Beyond the devastating risks of death or injury, consider the costs of repair, fines and even inconvenience. From putting in a

fence, planting a tree or building a deck, knowing where the power and water lines are before you dig will save a lot of time, money, and pain later.

Here are the four main things to remember if you plan to dig this month (or any month, for that matter!)

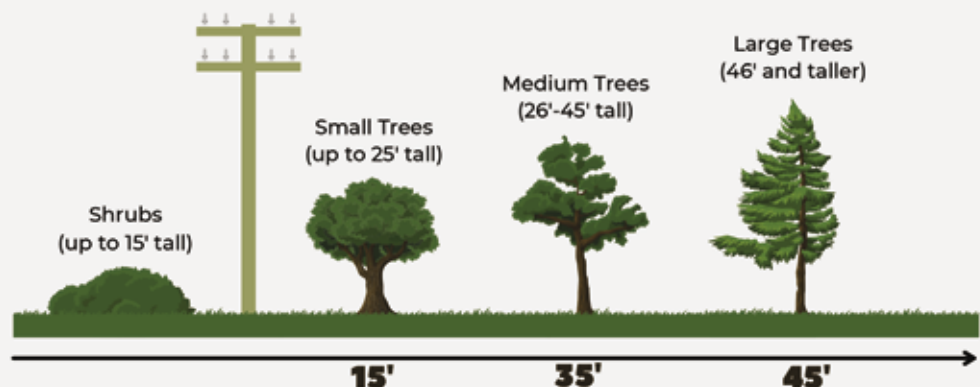
1. **Call 811 three days before you plan to dig.** All you must do is give the address or general location of the project, when you plan to start, and how much digging you'll be doing.
2. Make sure you **dig parallel with the utility line** and use precautions when you are removing soil from near the utility line.
3. **Use smaller hand tools** while digging within 24 inches of the outer edge of underground utility lines.
4. **Keep an eye out for signs of a natural gas leak.** If you smell something like rotten eggs, or hear hissing, whistling, or roaring, it's likely a leak.



Plant the right tree in the right place. Don't plant trees under power lines.

Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

FINAL NOTICE – BILLING DATES CHANGE IN APRIL



Starting in April, all members will be on the following billing cycle:

- ✓ Mail Date: *5th of month
- ✓ Due Date: *20th of month
- ✓ The bill will be for energy consumed from the 1st to the last day of the previous month.

**If this date falls on a weekend or holiday, the following business day will apply.*

If you are setup on autopay, JREC will take your payment from the checking or credit card you have on file on the 20th. If you pay your bill through your bank, please change the check issue date so it arrives on or before the 20th of each month. Call 715-532-5524 if you have any questions on these changes.

If you live in the southern half of our territory (Ladysmith–Jump River area), you will also notice that the April bill will only be for usage dates of March 10–31. This is due to the above change.

CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

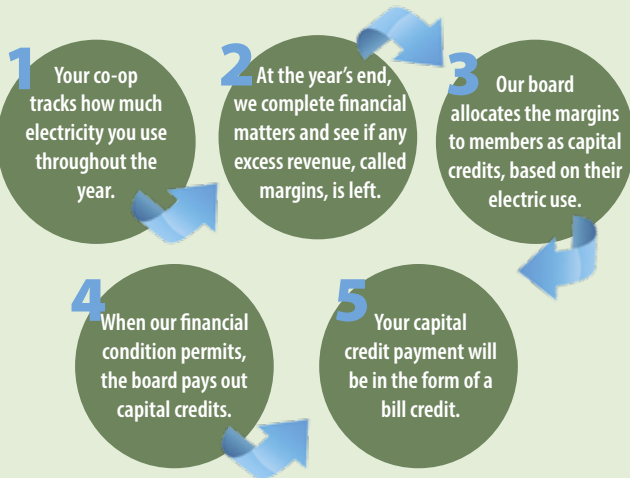
Unlike other utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your energy needs are met, not to make a profit. As a member,

you share in the profits in the form of capital credits. That money is used to maintain and upgrade the system and repay associated indebtedness. When the co-op's financial situation allows, some of the capital is returned to members.

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 profits, they ultimately come back to the member.

All members will find their 2021 capital credit allocation (your portion of the profit) listed in the Account Activity portion of your April bill. The graphic below explains how capital credits are allocated and then subsequently paid out. Please note that this is not a bill or a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill. Again, the allocation amount on your April bill represents your share of the operating margins (profits).

CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

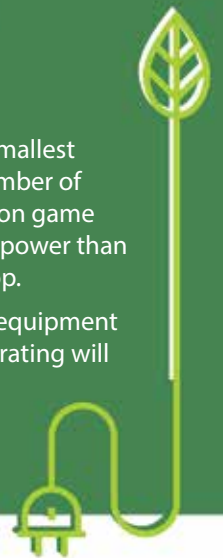


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111

Pay by Phone: 888-255-6489

Find us on Facebook & Twitter  


JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Denise Zimmer, Editor



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Offices will be closed April 15, 2022,
in observance of Easter.

Minutes of the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Membership • April 24, 2021

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative”) was held at the Ladysmith High School Auditorium, Town of Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Registration began at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Myron Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Brooks asked those who have served or are currently serving in the military to stand to be recognized. Brooks then asked the rest of the membership to stand for the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Brooks welcomed the cooperative members to the 83rd Annual Meeting.

Chairman Brooks reviewed the voting rules, explaining that returned absentee ballots could only be counted if they were returned by April 23rd and that the only ballots that would be collected and counted 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 48 members registered and declared there was an insufficient number to constitute an in-person quorum. Lorence then read the certificate of meeting.

Attorney Berman reported that despite the lack of a quorum in attendance at the annual meeting, that the membership could conduct certain business due to Wisconsin statute which allows the cooperative to count absentee and electronic ballots towards a quorum on the specific subjects of those absentee or electronic ballots. Berman stated that there were more than 50 votes cast for election of each of the directors, more than 50 votes cast on each of the proposed bylaw amendments, more than 50 votes cast on the advisory resolution, and more than 50 votes cast on approval of the 2019 and 2020 annual meeting minutes.

Attorney Berman reviewed the affidavit of mailing received from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association confirming that the notice of meeting and the director election ballots were mailed to members on March 29, 2021. Berman stated that the rules of the meeting were published in the annual report and given to members at registration.

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

Attorney Berman introduced and thanked the election inspectors who were Jerry Geisler, Jackson Reeder, Kathy Titera, Doug Dicus, Gene Ludvigsen, and Richard Gilbertson.

Attorney Berman introduced the current director candidates: District 1 – incumbent Jane Reich, Sheldon, and John Fitzl, Gilman; District 5 – incumbent Bill van Doorn, Ladysmith, and Arian Knops, Bruce; and District 6-Bill Amery, Hayward, running unopposed. Candidates were given an opportunity to address the membership.

Attorney Berman next stated that there were two proposed bylaw amendments, printed in the annual report on pages 16B and 16C, that were reviewed and recommended by the Rules and Resolutions Committee for approval. Berman opened to the membership the opportunity for comments or questions about the proposed bylaw amendments. Berman then reviewed the advisory resolution that was proposed by a member to recommend a five-year moratorium on rate increases. Berman stated that the Rules and Resolutions Committee, on a vote of 1 in favor of the resolution and 8 opposed, voted not to recommend adoption of the advisory resolution by the membership. Berman called for questions or comments about the advisory

resolution. There were no questions or comments.

Attorney Berman asked the membership if there were any questions or comments on the 2019 annual meeting minutes or the 2020 annual meeting minutes as they were published in the annual report, on pages 16H and 17. There were none.

Chairman Brooks reported on COVID 19, No Rate Increase, LCO Easement Update, and Strategic Planning Objectives.

CEO Anderson reported on looking to the future with the Membership Growth in 2020 and 2021, Capital Credit Returns, New Headquarters, and the Drive-Thru Events held throughout the year. Anderson recognized the 37 years of service and retirement of Operations Manager Sam Howard, the 20 years of service of CSR Denise Zimmer, and the 5 years of service for CSR Gayle Huseth and Lineman Marcus Olesiak. Anderson introduced other attending staff: John Moravec, Vicky Ringstad, Tammy Bloomer, Kurt Harris, Lori Davis, Dawn Zahurones, Sebastian Halmstad, and Jennifer Belk.

Attorney Berman read the external auditor’s report prepared by Jim Halverson of CliftonLarsonAllen.

Attorney Berman introduced the chairman of the election inspectors, Gene Ludvigsen, to report on the results of the voting.

Ludvigsen reported the election results as follows:

- District 1, Jane Reich receiving 293 votes to John Fitzl 173, re-electing Jane Reich
- District 5, Bill van Doorn receiving 325 votes to Arian Knops 133 votes, re-electing Bill van Doorn
- District 6, Bill Amery ran unopposed, received 406 votes, and was elected
- Proposed Bylaw Amendment 1 was approved on a vote of 443 in favor and 27 opposed
- Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2 was approved on a vote of 413 in favor and 43 opposed
- Advisory Resolution 1 was approved on a vote of 329 in favor and 145 opposed,
- 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as printed on a vote of 425 in favor and 14 opposed, and
- 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as printed on a vote of 420 in favor and 13 opposed.

Attorney Berman thanked the Rules Committee, the inspectors, and staff and all of the candidates.

Brooks and Anderson addressed the following questions that were submitted prior to the start of the meeting and questions from the floor: Reasoning for the change in the ballot mailout process, the cost of the change, and clarification on the results of the advisory resolution result.

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.

Berman, Brooks, and Anderson conducted prize drawings for five \$100 energy credits with winners being: Arian Knops, Jeff Allard, Zola Gesiler, Annette Wietkiewicz, John Fitzl, Don Ohlfs, and Tom/Sue van Doorn.

The grand prize winner of a \$500 energy credit was Sam and Debbie Stewart.

Chairman Brooks called for unfinished business. There was none.

Chairman Brooks called for new business. There was none.

Being there was no further business to come before the meeting, Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Final registration was 48 members.

Joe Lorence, Secretary – Treasurer

84th Annual Meeting Edition with director candidates and BALLOT inside.

Earth Day • April 22

INVEST IN OUR PLANET

Because a green future is
a prosperous future.
What will you do?



*"There's a way to
do it better—find it."*

—Thomas Edison

Photo by Georgiann O'Bryan, Bruce, WI