


Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* April 2023 NEWS



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NATIONAL LINEWORKER DAY – APRIL 10



#ThankALineworker

85th
ANNUAL
MEETING

REGISTRATION
TICKET

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

Notice of the 2023 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 29, 2023

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

In-person Meeting Locations:

- **The meeting will be held at a NEW location this year in Ladysmith.** Members can join us at the Ladysmith Headquarters warehouse at 1102 W 9th St N, Ladysmith, Wisconsin, or
- Hayward Outpost office 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 either location.

Action to be taken on the following business items:

1. Approval of the 2022 annual meeting minutes.
2. Reports from guest speaker, directors, and employees.
3. The election of three directors: one each from 3, 4, and 9.
4. Action on Proposed Bylaw Amendments (see page 16d).
5. Such other business as may come before the meeting.
6. Prize drawings.
7. Adjourn

Members not able to attend this meeting in-person can watch the meeting via the livestream on our Facebook page. Members will not be able to register or participate in the meeting via the livestream. This will be 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 have a chance to win one of the five \$100 energy credits or the grand prize, which is a \$500 energy credit. Members must be present at one of the two in-person meeting locations to be eligible to win.
- **\$25 ENERGY CREDIT:** A JREC swag bag and a \$25 energy credit will be given to each registering membership who attends the business meeting in-person.

2023 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 28, 2023, 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 proposed bylaw amendments. Members received information on their three voting options and deadlines associated with each option in the March and April issue of the *WECN*, as permitted in Article III, Section 7. Members may vote in any one of three ways: absentee, electronically, and by meeting-day ballot.
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 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 Chairperson's Report, General Manager's report, Auditor's Statement, and guest speaker presentations have been given.



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.



SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

As announced last month, members will be able to attend the 85th annual meeting in-person at either the Ladysmith headquarters (new location this year) or the Hayward office on Saturday, April 29. Members will be able to participate in all aspects of the meeting, from voting to winning prizes at both locations. We hope that by livestreaming the meeting to the Hayward office, more members will be able to take part in this democratic process of your cooperative.

We live in a digital world that provides convenient options for communication; however, there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our cooperative come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world. If you've never attended our annual meeting, make this be the year that changes, and plan on attending. Our co-op employees and board look forward to visiting with you!

Members are encouraged to practice their right to vote in the director elections and on the two proposed bylaw amendments that are on this year's ballot. Members have the option to vote by mail, vote online through SmartHub, or vote in-person prior to the start of the annual meeting. Detailed voting instructions are included in this issue, and a Voting FAQ at jrec.com. An absentee mail-in ballot is located on page 16d.



Together We Can Make a Difference

This cooperative was founded on seven cooperative principles, with #7 being Concern for Community. There are many people in the communities where we live who deal with food insecurity every day. That is why we are holding a food drive during the month of April to help meet this need. This food drive is all about neighbors helping neighbors.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at either office during our normal work hours or you can bring your food donation to the annual meeting. If you donate five (5) or more non-perishable food items, you will receive a pizza cutter as a thank you gift, while supplies last.

Another way to make an impact in our local communities is by participating in our Community Cents program where a little change can go a long way. This program relies solely on our members who have opted to have their electric bill rounded up. The average contribution a member will make

towards this program is about \$6 a year.

This program, while simple in nature, can have a tremendous impact on the communities we serve. We have over 9,750 accounts and at an average of \$6 per account, just by working together our members can generate around \$58,500 annually that could be invested back into our communities.

The funds that are collected through this program may be applied for by nonprofit organizations in the JREC territory.

Just by working together our members can generate around \$58,500 annually that could be invested back into our communities.



The Community Cents Advisory Committee is made up of one member from each district and will evaluate each application submitted. All decisions about where to invest these resources are made by this committee of members.

As a cooperative, we have a stake in this community and programs like this help support deserving local nonprofit organizations and help meet so many needs. I believe this program is a great example of why cooperatives are truly different. We can make a difference in our community by working together.

Please consider joining this program today. You can sign up online at jrec.com/community-cents or see the form on the back of your electric bill.

Here are 10 more ways we can work together to make a difference in our communities today:

1. Donate your time to a local organization or community event.
2. Engage in a random act of kindness to a neighbor.
3. Donate to a food bank or participate in JREC's food pantry drive.
4. Donate blood.
5. Help a child in need.
6. Volunteer at your local senior living community.
7. Plant a tree in honor of Earth Day (April 22).
8. Take your recyclables to a local recycling center.
9. Pick up litter in your community.
10. Support local farmers and businesses.

85th ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 29

Coffee and cookies served from 9:30–10 a.m. during registration.
Business meeting begins at 10 a.m.

If you've never attended an annual meeting, or if it's been a while, please join us this year. You can attend this meeting at the location that works best for you.



Ladysmith Headquarters
1102 W 9th St. North, Ladysmith



Hayward Office
13895 W County Hwy. B, Hayward



MEMBERS TO VOTE IN DIRECTOR ELECTION

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 JREC Board of Directors. You can vote for one person from each of the three director districts that are up for election this year.

Each member has one vote. More information on the three different ways you can cast your vote (electronic, absentee, and meeting-day) can be found on pages 16c.

DISTRICT 3



**Joe Lorence,
Sheldon, Incumbent**

It is hard to believe that three years have passed so quickly. Looking back, we had just moved into our new headquarters when something called COVID hit and changed our world. We were thrust into an unfamiliar new world of social distancing, businesses closed, appointments canceled, and schools closed. We were required to wear masks and started to lose some of our friends, neighbors, and members to an illness that nobody had seen before. We had to figure out how to have meetings at the headquarters.

Workers throughout the industry had to work through illness, virtual home schooling, and quarantines if you tested positive or were even exposed to the virus, and Zoom meetings and the internet was a way of keeping in touch. It turned out to be a change to our co-op membership as well. More members moved to our rural distribution area to escape the cities and built new housing, and many cabin owners decided to live in their cabins full time.

To comply with our bylaws, we held an annual meeting outside at the outdoor theatre in the park so we could socially distance. We couldn't have our normal Member Appreciation Days, so we had a drive-through in June for an ice cream cone and a drive through Trunk or Treat at Halloween.

Dairyland Power acquired a new general manager/CEO, and we also promoted Kurt Harris to our new general manager/CEO in Ladysmith.

I feel I have been a player in a unique part of the history of JREC. I have recently completed the WECA requirements to receive a Board Leadership Certification.

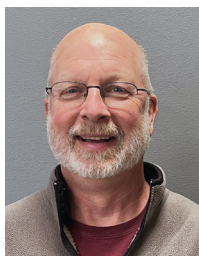
I certainly feel fortunate to have been able to serve and represent the member-owners of JREC and if I am allowed to continue as a director, I will continue to face the challenges ahead.

Briefly, we are being challenged by rising costs, time-of-use, electric vehicles, infrastructure, and new sources of power including nuclear to meet future demands.

Thanks for your support,
Joe



DISTRICT 4

**Steve Jansen, Ladysmith**

My name is Steve Jansen and I'm running for the position of director in District 4 on the Jump River Electric Board.

I've been a member of Jump River Electric since 1990 when my wife Cindy and I moved into our house

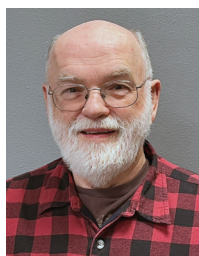
on Flambeau Ave. We have three sons: Matthew, 32, who's working at an engineering firm in the Twin Cities; Ryan, 30, who is a teacher in Siren; and Michael, 26, who recently graduated from UW-Stout and is currently deployed in Africa.

I retired in 2015 after working 30 years at Ladysmith High School. During that time, I've held a number of positions including: athletic director, dean of students, coach of a number of sports along with mathematics teacher at both the high school and middle school levels.

I currently work part-time with a local landscaping and concrete company.

I am a director on the Rusk County Wildlife Restoration Association, a member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Rusk County CDAC, and a contributor to many local organizations.

I enjoy hunting, woodworking, and spending time with my family.

**William (Bill) Pfalzgraf, Ladysmith**

Hello Cooperative Members:

My name is Bill Pfalzgraf. I am running for the first time for the Jump River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, representing District 4.

I grew up in a family of 10 siblings in Rusk County on a small dairy farm just northeast of Ladysmith. I attended school in Ladysmith, graduating in 1974. I received my bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education in 1978 from UW-River Falls. I started my career teaching agriculture in Oakfield, WI, and after a year came back to Rusk County to teach agriculture in the Flambeau School District. While working at Flambeau I attended UW-Superior and received my Specialist Degree in Educational Administration. I worked for the Flambeau School District for 34 years, 16 years in the classroom and 18 years as the district administrator. I have worked with numerous boards of education and many budgets during that time.

I was elected and served on my church's Pastoral Council and also elected and served on the Ladysmith School District Board, resigning after being hired to be the District Administrator for the Flambeau Schools.

Since retiring from my career in education, I have been keeping busy raising and selling hereford beef cattle. Although a small operation, it keeps me busy, but I have a desire to serve my community. I have been a JREC member for 44 years.

I believe with my background, my willingness to serve, along with what I could learn as a board member, I would be a worthy candidate and a positive addition to the board. I would appreciate your consideration and support.

Thank you,
Bill Pfalzgraf

**Jay Waeltz, Ladysmith**

Hello Jump River Electric Cooperative members. My name is Jay Waeltz and I am a candidate seeking the District 4 Board of Directors position. I am happily married to my wife, Traci. We have a teenage daughter who keeps us on

the move attending sporting events and other gatherings, which we enjoy very much. I have been lucky enough to grow up and spend most of my free time recreating in Rusk and Sawyer counties. I also have had the good fortune of making a living locally in the real estate, concrete, and landscaping businesses.

Recently, my wife and I were able to sell a portion of one of our businesses and that has allowed us to have more free time. With that free time, I believe I can make a positive impact on the Jump River Electric Cooperative Board and educate myself about the happenings of the cooperative. With that education and information, I'm hoping to be able to communicate with members and answer any questions or concerns they may have regarding the cooperative.

I have been self-employed for 25 years and that has given me a common sense and well-rounded approach to problems that may arise and an ability to make levelheaded decisions. I plan to utilize those qualities in the best interest of the cooperative members. I would appreciate your support in the District 4 election.

Thank you,
Jay Waeltz

District 9 candidate on the following page.

DISTRICT 9



Sandy Schara Hayward, Incumbent

Hello everyone,

The annual meeting will be here in April and that is also the time to vote for your directors who are up for election. My name is Sandy Schara and I am currently director for District 9 and am

seeking that position once again. District 9 encompasses all of the Town of Round Lake in the Hayward area.

I served on the Town of Round Lake board for 20 years, and last spring I decided not to run again and devote my time to the Jump River board instead. There is so much to learn about the

workings of the co-op, and I know I will never understand it all but I'm always willing to learn. I am a people person and I've really enjoyed getting to meet members in the relaxed atmosphere of member appreciation days. In my working years I owned and operated my own beauty salon for over 20 years.

As a board, we have tried very hard to achieve transparency. This is your board and your cooperative, and we welcome your interest and concerns. I look forward to learning more and I have enjoyed this journey and hope to continue to be one of your board members. I would appreciate your support to serve you again.

Thank You,
Sandy Schara



1102 W 9th Street North, PO Box 99
Ladysmith WI 54848

Phone: (715) 532-5524
Fax: (715) 532-3065

March 6, 2023

To: The Membership

As provided in the Bylaws, the Rules and Resolution Committee met on March 6, 2023:

- to consider – and decide whether or not to endorse – a member-submitted resolution proposing two Bylaw amendments; and
- to adopt rules for the annual meeting.

The Committee makes the following observations and recommendations:

The Committee's Recommendations on the Member-Proposed Bylaw Amendments:

Bylaw Amendment #1: This Bylaw amendment would eliminate the requirement for the annual meeting to be held on a Saturday every year; it would allow the Board more flexibility in scheduling the meeting, in an effort to increase attendance. The Rules and Resolutions Committee unanimously recommends that members vote **IN FAVOR OF** adoption of Amendment #1.

Bylaw Amendment #2: The Bylaws currently require that "annual, regular and special meetings of the Board will be audio and video taped," that they be promptly posted on the Co-op's website, and that they remain there for at least a year and then be retained for the life of the Co-op. Because of the cost – in dollars and staff time – required to implement that process and given how seldom members view or listen to those tapes, this Bylaw amendment would eliminate the requirement to make, post and retain those audio and video tapes. The requirement to post Minutes and make them available to members would remain and would not be affected at all by this amendment. The Rules and Resolutions Committee unanimously recommends that members vote **IN FAVOR OF** adoption of Amendment #2.

Annual Meeting Rules:

The Committee reviewed and updated the 2022 Annual Meeting Rules. The Annual Meeting Rules, as adopted by this Committee pursuant to the Bylaws, can be found on the inside of the front cover of the April issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*.

Respectfully submitted,

Rules and Resolution Committee

Doug Dicus, Chair
Gene Ludvigsen

Walt Lang Jr.
Susan Farrell

Gary Beadles
Kathy Overman

Fred Stendel

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



YOUR VOTING OPTIONS

One of Three Ways



OPTION 1: ABSENTEE MAIL-IN BALLOT

The ballot on page 16d is your ABSENTEE BALLOT and is to be completed and mailed according to the below instructions. Absentee ballots must reach the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 28, 2023, and will not be accepted at the 85th annual meeting.

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. Vote on the proposed bylaw amendments by marking an "X" on the "for adoption" to vote for the proposal or on the "against adoption" to vote against the proposal, making sure to mark one box for each proposal.
3. 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!
4. 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 2: ELECTRONIC BALLOT

Members can cast a web ballot online through SmartHub (an online account portal). If you do not have a SmartHub account, you will need to first create one. Online voting will open on March 31 and close April 27 at 4 p.m.

1. Log into your SmartHub account or create one by following the instructions at 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. The Client Election Screen will open, and you can view the director candidate bios and proposed bylaw amendments from this screen. Members can vote for one candidate per district and vote on each proposed bylaw amendment. 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. Click Logout.



OPTION 3: MEETING-DAY BALLOT

Members who attend the annual meeting on April 29 and have not cast a ballot prior to the meeting will receive a meeting-day ballot. Ballots can be obtained at the registration table. Meeting-day 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.

BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS

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

DISTRICT 3

☐

Joe Lorence

DISTRICT 4

☐

Steven Jansen

☐

William (Bill)
Pfalzgraf

☐

Jay Waeltz

DISTRICT 9

☐

Sandra Schara

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Editor's Note: Text with a line through indicates language that will be removed if the amendments are adopted.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 1:

RESOLVED, that Article III, Section 1 of the Bylaws ("Annual Meeting") is hereby amended as follows:

The annual meeting of the members shall be held not later than October in each year ~~on a Saturday~~ at such time and place within the County of Rusk, State of Wisconsin, as shall be selected by the Board of Directors, which date, time and place shall be specified in the notice of the annual meeting.

☐

For Adoption

☐

Against Adoption

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2:

RESOLVED, that Article V, Section 7 of the Bylaws ("Board Transparency, Integrity, and Accountability") is hereby amended as follows:

Minutes shall be kept of all annual, regular, special and committee meetings. Minutes and individual director's expenses shall be posted on the Cooperative's website for a minimum of one year and available to the members at the Ladysmith Headquarters Office immediately upon request. ~~All annual, regular and special meetings of the Board will be audio and video taped, posted on the Cooperative's website within 15 days, and remain online for the length of one year at minimum, and available to members immediately upon request for a reasonable fee. Videos will be archived and kept in perpetuity.~~

☐

For Adoption

☐

Against Adoption

Absentee mail-in ballots must reach the JREC office by 4 p.m. on April 28, 2023, and will not be accepted at the 85th annual meeting. Copies of this will not be accepted. Please remember, only one ballot will be accepted per membership.



STEP 1.) SAVE ENERGY

STEP 2.) SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY BILL

STEP 3.) RECEIVE REBATE

Cooperatives are unique in that they tell their members to use less of the product they sell. Not only do you save money because you are using less energy due to energy-efficient measures taken, but those measures taken may also qualify for rebates.

Those interested in finding out more about what types of rebates we offer can go to jrec.com/energy-sense-rebates. There you will find a detailed list of energy efficient items that are eligible for rebates.

If you purchase a qualifying item, please fill out the appropriate form and return the form and required documentation to the cooperative within three months of purchase or installation (this will be clarified on the form). Equipment must be installed within the cooperative's service territory and, in most cases, must be ENERGY STAR® rated.

Know the difference between EnergyGuide and the ENERGY Star labels

EnergyGuide

The EnergyGuide label is a required label which estimates the annual energy consumption for an appliance. It also provides information about whether that use is above or below the average for that type of product. The dollar amount listed is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.



ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR label is the government's symbol for energy efficiency. It helps consumers easily recognize highly efficient products, homes, and buildings that save energy and money, and help protect the environment. The ENERGY STAR logo is often incorporated into the EnergyGuide label for certified products.

Rebates are available for the purchase of new ENERGY STAR rated appliances. For more information, visit jrec.com/energy-sense-rebates.



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 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BALANCE SHEET

(December 31, 2022)
(Subject to Audit)

ASSETS	2022
Electric Utility Plant.....	\$57,071,570
Less Reserve for Depreciation.....	\$(16,267,425)
Net Utility Plant.....	\$40,804,145
Patronage Associated Organizations	\$6,400,851
Investments Associated Organizations	\$713,810
Other Investments	\$8,084
General Cash	\$52,088
Temporary Cash Investments	\$9,758
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Reserves).....	\$1,896,063
Materials and Supplies	\$770,123
Other Current and Accrued Assets.....	\$143,254
Deferred Charges	\$2,072
TOTAL ASSETS.....	<u>\$50,800,248</u>

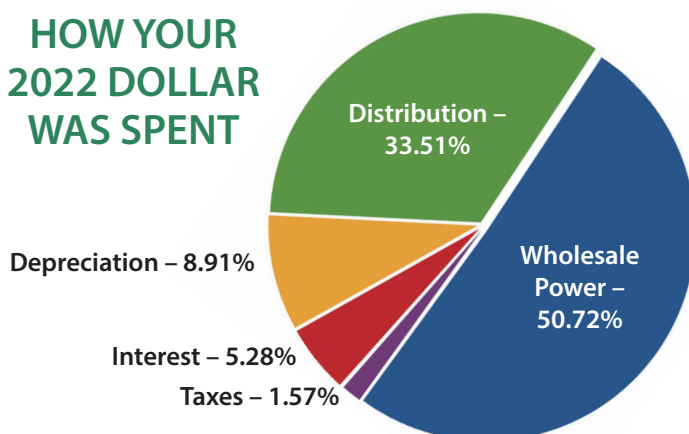
LIABILITIES	2022
Long Term Debt (RUS-NRUCFC)	\$29,002,960
Notes and Accounts Payable.....	\$2,413,987
Customer Deposits	\$462,024
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$752,987
Deferred Credits.....	\$81,784
Total Liabilities.....	\$32,713,742
Patrons' Capital Credits.....	\$24,550,628
Less Capital Credits Retired	\$(10,615,611)
Balance Capital Credits Outstanding	\$13,935,017
Retired Capital Credits – Gain	\$937,665
Membership Fees	\$47,095
Other Equities	\$3,166,729
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES	<u>\$50,800,248</u>

OPERATING REPORT

(Subject to Audit)

	For the Year	
	2022	2021
Total Operating Revenue	<u>\$16,257,304</u>	<u>\$15,136,459</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Cost of Power.....	\$8,246,338	\$7,429,180
Operations and Maintenance Expense	\$3,228,225	\$3,029,480
Collection and Billing Expense.....	\$438,692	\$481,838
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$103,193	\$96,327
Sales Expense	\$60,711	\$96,786
Administrative and General Expense.....	\$1,410,102	\$1,433,986
Depreciation	\$1,449,235	\$1,394,271
Taxes.....	\$255,565	\$245,859
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$837,330	\$842,374
Other Deductions.....	\$26,907	\$5,215
Total Operating Expenses ...	<u>\$16,056,298</u>	<u>\$15,055,316</u>
Net Income from Operations	\$201,006	\$81,143
Patronage Capital Allocations (DPC-NRUCFC) and Other Non-Operating Income.....	\$619,794	\$536,537
TOTAL MARGINS FOR THE PERIOD	<u>\$820,799</u>	<u>\$617,680</u>

HOW YOUR 2022 DOLLAR WAS SPENT



What We Did During 2022

New Services Built.....	130
Miles of Overhead Line Built/Removed	-3.76
Miles of Underground Line Installed/Removed.....	13.80
Poles Installed or Replaced	363
Services Changed for Increased Capacity	68



YOUR PORTION OF THE PROFIT

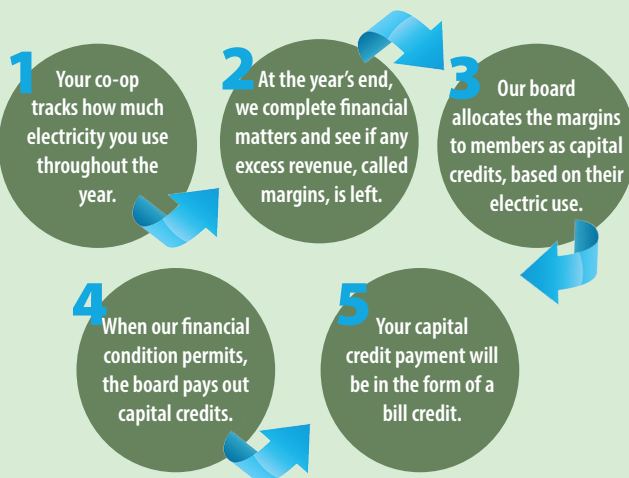
Unlike other utilities, your cooperative exists to make sure your energy needs are met, not to make a profit. As a member, you share in the profits in the form of capital credits. That money is used to maintain and upgrade the system and repay associated indebtedness. When the co-op's financial situation 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 you, the member.

All members will find their 2022 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 back to you.

Please note that the information is not a bill. It is also not a credit that can be used to pay your electric bill. Again, the allocation amount on your April bill represents your portion of the operating margins (profits) we had in 2022 and is based on what you paid into the cooperative in 2022.

CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION



SMARTHUB

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART USAGE. SMART LIFE.

- Pay your bill online
- Set up your bill for automatic payments
- View your billing history
- View and manage your electric usage 24/7



It's easy to sign up. Go to jrec.smarthub.coop/login.html or click on the QR Code. You can also cast a web ballot for the director election and on the proposed bylaw amendments. See page 16c-16d for more information.

Unlimited Internet that works for YOU!



UNLIMITED DATA PLANS

Up to 30 mbps download speeds

Packages
Starting at
\$39.99 PER MONTH
\$59.99/mo.
after 3 months



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

715-532-5524

Viasat

\$20 off first 3 months special offer available 4/1/23-4/30/23 on new installations only.

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Who Are Our Members?

Residential	4,311
Seasonal.....	4,542
Commercial	644
Farms.....	297
Schools, Halls, Etc	44
Water Pumping	28
Industrial.....	20
Street Lights	4
Total Meters Connected	9,890

2022 Interruptions of Electric Service

Maintenance/Planned	28
Material or equipment	63
Tree contact.....	191
Weather-related	19
Small animal/bird	88
Fire	3
Member-caused.....	7
Public-caused	17
Total Outages.....	416

POWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

The co-op lines run deep

Being a lineworker takes a special kind of person. Working near high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and ongoing mental toughness. 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.

On April 10, we will be celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day. This day is set aside so we can recognize lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering everyday life. Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.

JREC would like to go one step further in showing our appreciation on April 10. We would like to also recognize the family support system behind each of our lineworkers. JREC lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or any other important family milestones. Equally important to the years of training and experience that help them get the job done safely is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

We appreciate the sacrifice of those family members who stay behind and support their lineworker on the home front. This includes the children who know what the sound of the ringing phone really means: it means Daddy needs to run out the door to fix someone's electricity. While most of us are

sheltered at home during a storm, these families find their loved ones running into the storm, wondering if they will be safe in that lightning storm or on those impassible roads.

There are many unexpected events or tasks that also fall onto the shoulders of this support system, like fixing a flat tire or dealing with a flooded basement during that summer storm. This is simply because their loved one is out working hard to restore power so the rest of us can get back to comfortable living. You can see a few of the JREC lineworker families pictured below. #ThankALineworkerFamily.

It is all in the family.

There have been several employees over the past 85 years who have a long line of lineworkers within their family tree. You could say that being a lineworker is part of JREC's DNA.

Ladysmith Lineman Kevin Wright followed in his father's (Rodger Wright) footsteps. When Rodger worked for JREC, he was the Hannibal line superintendent. Along with Kevin we have six other current employees with relatives who work as linemen.

Finance Manager Lori Davis's son, Tyler, grew up within the JREC family and worked part-time mowing lawn at the co-op for a few summers and served our members during Member Appreciation Days. He is now employed as a lineman at Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).

Hayward Linemen Cory Andraschko and Calvin Wiener both have relatives in the same profession. Cory has an uncle

JREC is grateful for our lineworkers and families that support them. Pictured from left to right: Cory Andraschko and family, Ben Valentin and his fiancée, Calvin Wiener and his family, and Kraig Gay and his family.





who works as a lineman for Dunn Electric Cooperative and a brother who works for DPC. Calvin has seven relatives who were also linemen, with one brother-in-law who currently works for Bayfield Electric Cooperative. Member Service Representative Denise Zimmer has three nephews who are linemen, two of whom work for other cooperatives.

I want to be a lineman.

Brandon Walters, son of Ladysmith Foreman Greg Walters, said his earliest memory of wanting to become a lineman was when he was around 12 years old. He would always ask his dad about his day at work. Hearing what his dad did every day made Brandon want to be just like him when he grew up. Throughout his teenage years, Brandon served food during Member Appreciation Days. In fact, he usually called dibs on serving the beans.

Brandon said that helping at the cooperative not only influenced his career choice, but also led him to want to work for a cooperative. He said he was inspired when “I saw all the guys talking and having a good time together along with the great atmosphere that the members and cooperative created together.” Brandon is a lineman for Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative and said, “The thing I enjoy most about being a lineman is that I’m constantly learning something new every day.”

Hayward Line Superintendent Kraig Gay’s son, Nolan, graduated in March from the Electric Power Distribution/ Lineworker program at Chippewa Valley Technical College. Nolan’s earliest memory of wanting to become a lineman



Brandon Walters, left, and his dad, Ladysmith Foreman Greg Walters

was when his dad gave an electrical safety demonstration to his second-grade class. He remembers being taught the dangers of touching any line. Following that demonstration, his teacher asked the class what they wanted to be when they grew up, and Nolan knew then that it was a lineman.

“Growing up my dad showed me all of his interests so when it came to linework I was very interested. Every boy wants to be just like his dad. I was always interested in the places he went. I was also taught by him that helping others was a way of life and he enjoyed helping others through linework. I figured I would also enjoy helping others through linework,” said Nolan.

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 at JREC are powering the next generation. Please join us as we recognize them on April 10, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



Nolan Gay, right, and his dad, Hayward Line Superintendent Kraig Gay



SAFETY TIP: The orange work zone sign is not a suggestion, it's the law. Slow down, move over, and use extra caution in work zones. Do your part to help everyone return home safely.

RETIRING EMPLOYEE LOOKS FORWARD TO NEXT CHAPTER

After serving the cooperative and its membership for over 36 years, Finance Manager Lori Davis announced her plans to retire. Lori said, “I will miss being part of an organization that cares about its employees, its members, and its community. I’ve watched many coworkers retire and have anxiously awaited this day, but it is bittersweet. Being a part of the cooperative staff nearly all my adult life has truly been a blessing. I was raised in Rusk County and have lived and worked here all my life. I look forward to retiring here as well.”

Times sure have changed since her first day at JREC. Everything was hand calculated and recorded with pencil and paper or by typewriter. Members read their own meters and called in their monthly readings during those early years. Lori recalled, “We had one big computer the size of a small tank in the billing office, and we were just moving into computers for office personnel. I started my career with an electric typewriter that had auto correct, which was a big deal back then! I’ve gone through two computer program integrations and now nearly all processes are computerized.”

Lori started her career at JREC as the manager’s secretary. Other positions she held over the 36 years include work order clerk, work order accountant, manager of member services, interim general manager, and finance manager. Lori says her greatest accomplishment during her career was carrying out the mission of the cooperative by working with her peers to provide reliable and affordable electric service to the membership of the cooperative to the best of her ability.

Work Order Accountant Jessica Bingham shared, “A mentor is someone who shows you the right direction, helps you along the way, and is with you every step; Lori was that person for me.” Along with being a mentor to many employees over the years, she has been a friend, a fearless leader, an invaluable employee, and someone who is irreplaceable. There was no job that Lori wouldn’t help you with and always with a smile on her face.

Now that Lori and her husband, Greg, are retired, they are both looking forward to checking items off their bucket list and spending more time with family and friends. Relaxing with her husband, attending more grandkid events, traveling,



“Starting with JREC almost 20 years ago, I not only started a new career but also gained a lifelong friendship with a special person. Lori and I have worked together so well for so many years. I have big shoes to fill and will miss her dearly here at work, but I know I’ll always have her as a friend,” said Finance Manager Dawn Zahurones (sitting). Lori has been working closely with Dawn and Accountant Sebastian Halmstad to ensure a seamless transition when she retires.

crafting, gardening, and enjoying time on the lake have all made it to the top of her retirement to-do list.

Rumor has it that Lori has numerous half-completed craft projects to be finished and 36 years of accumulated supplies purchased and waiting to be used. “My husband has built me a crafting table and I’ll be attempting to carry on with some of my late father’s patterns for birdhouses and lawn ornaments as well as working on beading, scrapbooking, and many other crafts,” explains Lori. She also hopes to spend more time watching beautiful sunrises and sunsets while fishing from her boat.

General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris said, “Lori has been an integral part of JREC for over three decades. Her knowledge and experience have truly been an asset to the cooperative and our members. She has been my go-to person since I began my career here and she will be greatly missed. Congratulations Lori. We wish you all the best in your retirement!”

It’s never easy to say goodbye to a longtime employee with so much experience, but we wish Lori good health and happiness as she begins her next chapter. It sounds like it will be full of adventures.

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Denise Zimmer, Editor



**Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Offices closed April 7 in observance of Easter.

Minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting of the Membership • April 30, 2022

The 84th 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 Flambeau, Rusk County, Wisconsin; and live-streamed, in-person at the Hayward Outpost, Sawyer County, Hayward, Wisconsin, on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Registration began at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Myron Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed the cooperative members to the 84th Annual Meeting. 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 reviewed the voting rules, explaining that returned absentee ballots could only be counted if they were returned by April 29 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 89 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 notice of meeting and the director election ballots were mailed to 8,585 members on March 31, 2022. 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, 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 Gene Ludvigsen, Doug Dicus, Jerry Geisler, and Darrell Doughty working from Ladysmith; and Kathy Overman, Delores Brandt, Jackson Reeder, and Richard Gilbertson working from the Hayward Outpost.

Attorney Berman introduced the current director candidates, all of whom were incumbents and being District 2 – Myron Brooks, Gilman; District 7 – Jason Weaver, Hayward; and District 8 – Walter Kruk, Hayward; with all elections running unopposed.

Chairman Brooks reported on the CEO hiring process, capital credits returned to members from DPC and JREC in 2021, and thanked Mike Schaefer for his service to the cooperative as the interim general manager/CEO.

Interim General Manager Mike Schaefer thanked the board and employees for the help given to him during his time at JREC and stated it was a pleasure serving the membership in this role. Schaefer then read the external auditor’s report prepared by Jim Halverson of CliftonLarsonAllen. Schaefer presented his report which included various graphs showing the number of members served, growth in kilowatt-hour sales, total assets, member equity, capital credits retired, operating revenue, cost of purchased power, expenses, margins, and retail rates for the years 2014 to 2021. He reviewed the broadband study and the possible need for implementing a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to help cover the expected wholesale rate variance. New Time of Use (TOU) and

Electric Vehicle (EV) rate options being reviewed by the board was also presented by Schaefer.

Assistant Manager Kurt Harris provided an update on the Lac Courte Oreilles easement matter and reported on the progress of the geographic information system mapping, vegetation management, line maintenance, and infrastructure improvements being made. Harris honored the following employees for their years of service without a lost-time accident: 20 years of service by Line Superintendent Joe Donnellan, Lineman Kevin Wright, and CSR Denise Zimmer; and 5 years of service for Billing Clerk Tammy Bloomer and Lineman Marcus Olesiak. Lineman Rowdy Kochevar and meter technician Jeff Kurtzhals were recognized for graduating from their respective apprenticeship program. Harris also recognized Jordan Behreandt for his promotion to operations manager and the two employees hired recently in Hayward, being Lee Henning as the CSR, and Ben Valentin who is a third-year apprentice lineman.

Dairyland Power Cooperative’s (DPC) Vice President of Strategic Growth John Carr gave a presentation that addressed their goal of sustainability and how DPC is methodically lowering their carbon output without sacrificing safety and reliability.

Brooks, Schaefer, Harris, and Carr addressed questions on the following matters: DPC’s Genoa 3 plant closing, what DPC is doing to prevent power outages and wholesale rate increases like what happened in Texas, Green Power, meter capabilities for TOU rates, broadband grants, cybersecurity, Manitoba Hydro opportunities for DPC, global warming and the global market, EV charging stations, concerns on some recent *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* articles, and the world’s carbon footprint.

Attorney Berman introduced the Chairman of the Election Inspectors, Gene Ludvigsen, to report on the results of the voting. Attorney Berman reported the election results as follows:

- District 2, Myron Brooks ran unopposed, received 292 votes, and was re-elected
- District 7, Jason Weaver ran unopposed, received 283 votes, and was re-elected
- District 8, Walter Kruk ran unopposed, received 284 votes, and was re-elected
- 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as printed on a vote of 299 in favor and 15 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.

Chairman Brooks called for unfinished business. There was none.

Chairman Brooks called for new business. Discussion held on the approval process for annual meeting minutes going forward.

The grand prize winner of a \$500 energy credit was Sharron Dicus, with the five \$100 energy credit winners being: Barbara Reuss, Tim Smith, Gary Purgett, Gerald Overman, and Bruce Evjen.

Being there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Final registration was 91 members.

Joe Lorence, Secretary – Treasurer

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April is National Safe Digging Month.