



# HARRIS NAMED ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

By Michael Schaefer, Interim Manager

The Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) Board of Directors has promoted Kurt Harris to assistant general manager. Kurt and I will work side-by-side over the next few months, then he will transition into the general manager position once my term ends in May 2022. Kurt assumed his new duties on November 7.

JREC Board Chairman Myron Brooks said, “Kurt has shown a continued willingness to learn and lead, and under Mike’s guidance, Kurt will have on-the-job training to ensure a smooth transition into his new role.”

Kurt started at Jump River Electric in 2005 as an apprentice lineman and later earned his journeyman’s license. His experience also includes serving as a meter tech/lineman and general foreman. Most recently, he served as our operations manager.

Besides wanting a strong leader for our excellent team of employees, I have a deep personal desire to ensure Jump River’s next general manager is up to the task. As a member, I want to make sure the cooperative is in good hands. I know Kurt will be a great fit for the position.

“I am excited for this opportunity,” Kurt said. “The time to learn from Mike will go by quickly, but I am ready to hit the ground running.

“We will continue to work on improving our overall infrastructure, safety and service reliability,” Kurt continued. “There are some promising opportunities on the horizon with emerging technology and I want to make sure we embrace it in



Kurt Harris

ways that benefit our members.”

Kurt and his wife, Stefanie, have two children: Mia (7) and Luke (4). The kids attend the School District of Flambeau where Stefanie works as the district’s finance secretary. As a family, they enjoy traveling and outdoor activities. They are also members of the cooperative.

It has been great working with the employees over the past seven months and I have enjoyed serving the membership as the interim general manager for this 83-year-old cooperative. I look forward to working with Kurt and helping to ensure that he has the tools needed to be successful in this new role. Congratulations, Kurt!

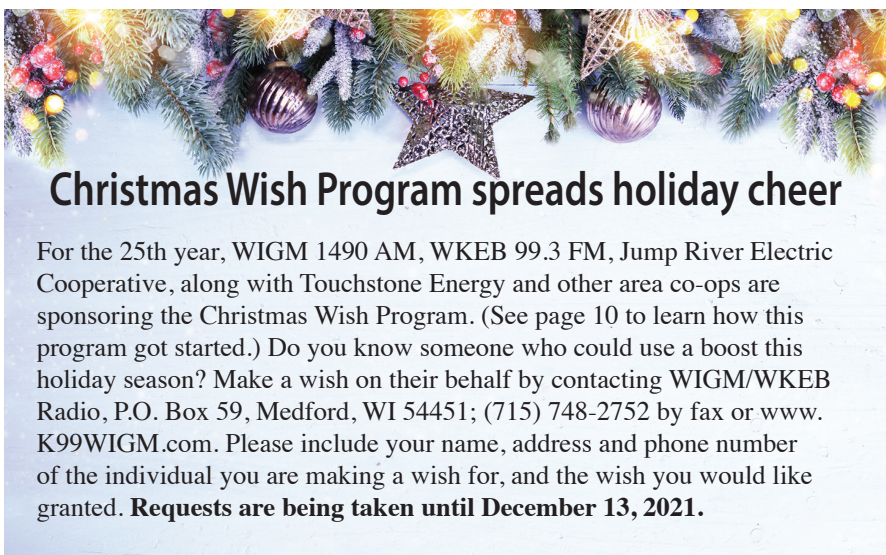
## Mark your calendar

You will want to grab your 2022 calendar, go to April 30, and pencil in JREC’s 84th annual meeting. The location and business meeting details are still being worked out. More information to follow in future issues of this magazine.

## Other deadlines

**January 20** is the deadline for notifying JREC of your interest in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee. This committee would meet in early March.

**March 1** is the deadline for both the Director Nomination Petitions and any resolutions that are to be considered at the 84th annual meeting. Members who reside in districts 2, 7, and 8 will have the opportunity to be nominated as a director candidate for the 2022 board election. If you are not sure which district you reside in, go to [jrec.com/board-director-and-district-information](http://jrec.com/board-director-and-district-information) to view the district map. Director duties and a job description can also be found there.





# FALL WAS FULL OF FUN AT JREC



## Member Appreciation Days Drive-Thru

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Amrhein were the first members to go through our first-ever Member Appreciation Days drive-thru event. Brats, hotdogs, chips, milk, and ice cream were served throughout the two-day event. Many members were able to take their lunch break with us as they drove through and picked up their bag of goodies. As you can see by the faces on both the members and employees, it was a lot of fun.

## Trunk or Treat Halloween Celebration

Over 250 cars passed through JREC's warehouse as we kicked off Halloween on October 29 with the second annual Trunk or Treat Drive-Thru event. Each car stopped at the eight business booths as they drove through the warehouse, receiving candy, ice cream, milk, chips, and T-shirts. JREC held a costume contest, with the winners pictured on the right.

We'd like to thank Rusk Area Chamber of Commerce, Indianhead Action Agency, Flambeau Cancer Benefit, Rusk County Dairy Promoters, Security Financial Bank, Enbridge, and Northwoods Nexus for helping make this a success.

How did we measure the success? By the many smiles seen on the community members' faces, both young and not as young, who enjoyed this event. We especially enjoyed the Facebook post by member Jared Prokop with his two kids (Spiderman and Sonic) showing the bounty of goodies they picked up at the event, saying, "My electric company is cooler than yours!"



Clockwise, starting above left: Best boy DIY costume, Xhander C. as scarecrow; best girl DIY costume, Baylee D. as the green witch; best scary child costume, Branton A. as a scary clown; best adult woman costume, Daanna Eby as Glinda the good witch; best adult man costume, Roy Cartes; and best themed car was Russ' family of just overall scary people. Each received a logoed blanket with a bag full of goodies for a movie-night at home.





## Bill Credit Drawings

### Winners of \$25 bill credits

Keith Scherer, Couderay	Larry Keller, Hayward	Angel Garcia, Hayward
Lyle Geissler, Ladysmith	Douglas K Webster, Gilman	Donna Hipenbecker, Hawkins
James M Grill, Stanley	Steve Boe, Hayward	Randall Armsbury Jr., Hayward
John Hall, Hayward	Ellen Kayler, Hayward	Dave Plocher, Hayward
Allen L Metcalf, Couderay	Patricia Rixner, Hayward	Kenneth Jenness, Bruce
John K House, Hayward	Jeanette B Kramer, Hawkins	Sandra Hotvet, Hayward
Kevin Griesbach, Glen Flora	Scott Everson, Hayward	Elizabeth Morris, Ladysmith
Michael A Mc Guinness, Hayward	Randy Sonley, Bruce	Steve Brubaker, Hayward
Andy Janeczko, Ladysmith	Keith Scherer, Bruce	Richard Foster, Gilman
Edward Giwojna, Sheldon	Christopher Graham, Hayward	
David Freiling, Bruce		
Marc Reuter, Couderay		

### Facebook Winners

These three members submitted their best energy conservation tip and received a \$50 bill credit

Lynn Larson, Bruce • Jim Stiner, Holcombe • D. Musiala, Hayward

## 50 YEARS LATER

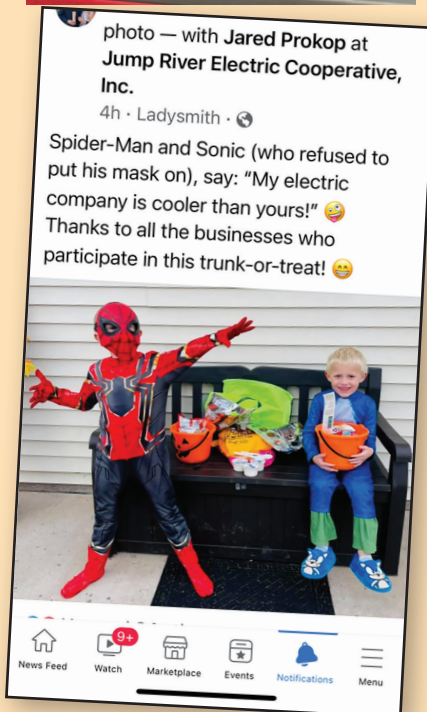
Still bringing joy to girls and boys with our giant stocking full of toys!

It was 1969 when young Doug Titera and Mary Rands won the very first "World's Largest Christmas Stocking." For many years JREC gave away two stockings, one for a boy and one for a girl. At right are the 1974 stocking winners, Deanna McVicker and Brent Morris.

We caught up with Deanna recently and she still remembers that day when she took home all the gifts that had filled that giant stocking. Deanna recalled, "I remember being very excited getting all those toys—more toys than we would normally get for Christmas." With eight children in her family, she was able to share her winnings with her five sisters.

We are going retro this year and will once again give out boy's and girl's stocking for children ages 2 to 10. Two names (one boy/one girl) will be drawn from the Hayward area members and two more from the Ladysmith / Jump River area members. **HURRY – the drawings will take place December 22.** Fill out the ticket below and drop it off or mail it to the appropriate office based on where your service is located.

- Previous winners and their families, directors', and employees' immediate families are not eligible.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of child must be an active member of the cooperative.
- Winners will be notified, and pictures taken of each winner.



My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My age is: \_\_\_\_\_

My parents are: \_\_\_\_\_

My telephone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Member account number: \_\_\_\_\_

If your parents don't have a telephone, please list a number where a message can be left: \_\_\_\_\_

BOY ☐

GIRL ☐

Drop or mail to: Jump River Electric Cooperative  
Hayward members: 13895 W CTH B, Hayward, WI 54843  
All other members: P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848





## WE DID IT AGAIN!



### Scholarship amounts increased for second year in a row

High school, home school, lineworker, adult (non-traditional), and LCO Community College scholarships have all been increased to \$1,000 each this year. In total, \$30,000 in scholarship monies will be awarded in 2022. Monies for all scholarships come from the Federated Youth Foundation, which is funded through unclaimed capital credits. Go to [jrec.com/scholarships](http://jrec.com/scholarships) for details.

## LAST CHANCE

### To enter JREC's 2021 Member Photo Contest

Submit photos capturing life in rural Wisconsin to JREC for our next member photo contest. Photos must be taken within the JREC service area and may appear in future co-op publications. Go to [jrec.com/photo\\_contest](http://jrec.com/photo_contest) for contest guidelines and a consent form. Please email your digital image and consent form to [dzimmer@jrec.com](mailto:dzimmer@jrec.com) by January 18, 2022.

The 2022 calendars are now available for pickup at both offices. This calendar features member photos from the past photo contest.

## GIFTS THAT DO A WORLD OF GOOD

This holiday season, giving the gift of energy savings and a healthier planet means so much more. When you choose ENERGY STAR certified electronics, appliances, and other products, your gift will have the latest features and save energy and money. It's a gift that does a world of good for your loved ones and the planet.



## GINGERBREAD "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" CONTEST



### We have a fun family contest for you!

Why not gather your family around the table and build a unique gingerbread home for our new Gingerbread "Home for the Holidays" contest? It'll be fun! At the very least, it will build great memories for you and your family. Three \$50 energy credits will be given to the three most creative gingerbread houses made. This contest is for members only. Please submit a picture of your unique gingerbread home to [dzimmer@jrec.com](mailto:dzimmer@jrec.com) along with your account number, name, and phone number. **All pictures need to be submitted by January 12, 2022.**

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715-532-5524 (Ladysmith); 715-634-4575 (Hayward) • [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com)

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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Denise Zimmer, Editor**



**Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR HAYWARD OUTPOST –**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday – Friday.