



James Anderson  
General Manager

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We're looking forward to another great year at your cooperative. There was so much change in 2018 that some of the changes are carrying over to 2019. The changes that were started last year are now going to start to benefit you, our member-owners, this year and for many years into the future. The biggest change this year will be your annual meeting moving to Saturday, April 27. This new date is going to give you access to information that was almost a year old when it was presented previously in the fall.

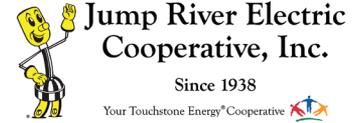
One of the biggest drivers for the change is that December 31, 2018,

the end of the fiscal year, triggers the start of the annual audit process. Staff from our independent audit firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, will be on site to examine the accounting records and transactions for 2018. Their work will culminate in publication of year-end financial statements and their audit report. The financial reports for Jump River Electric Cooperative will be presented to your board of directors at its March meeting. A review of the annual financial reports will be conducted by Jim Halvorsen, CPA, Principal, at the annual membership meeting in April. This change will allow our members to see the results almost immediately after they are prepared.

New projects as well as system improvements will also be presented before

they take place. JREC staff will be able to provide information on our right-of-way tree trimming and brush cutting. You will also get updates on the progress of new technology that is coming to JREC this year and what it will do for the cooperative. These changes are intended to make you, our member-owner, more informed on JREC activities before they happen. We want you to be engaged with your cooperative and we know that the first step is communication. The JREC staff is always ready to listen to you at any time, and your annual meeting is the best time for you to interact with directors and staff and to ask questions about your cooperative.

The management and employees of JREC wish all of you a safe and prosperous New Year!



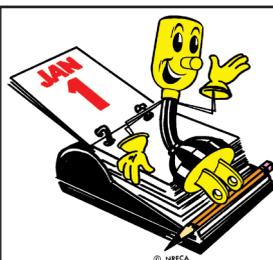
## Board member earns leadership certificate

Board President Jerry Carow recently presented District 2 Director Myron Brooks with a certificate of completion of the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) program. Brooks also holds a Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, which board members must complete prior to receiving the BLC certification.



## A Look Back

Members filled the chairs at the annual meeting held in 1950, just 10 years after the cooperative had been energized. Up until the early 2000s members made handcrafted items and sold them at the annual meeting.



Jump River Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's Day.



# DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL = ENGAGED MEMBERSHIP

## Directors Sought for Districts 2, 7, and 8

Cooperative members who reside in Districts 2, 7, and 8 have an opportunity to serve on their co-op's board of directors. The director election will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019, during the 81st Annual Meeting of the Membership. Note the new month. This meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School, as in the past.

If you reside in one of these three districts, please consider becoming a part of your electric cooperative's board of directors. Jump River Electric is governed by a board of nine directors (nine districts – see right) that provide strategic direction and guidance to ensure the cooperative continues to serve the interest of you, the member. While serving on a board is certainly not for everyone, it is healthy for any co-op to have an engaged membership with a portion of the members interested in serving in a leadership role.

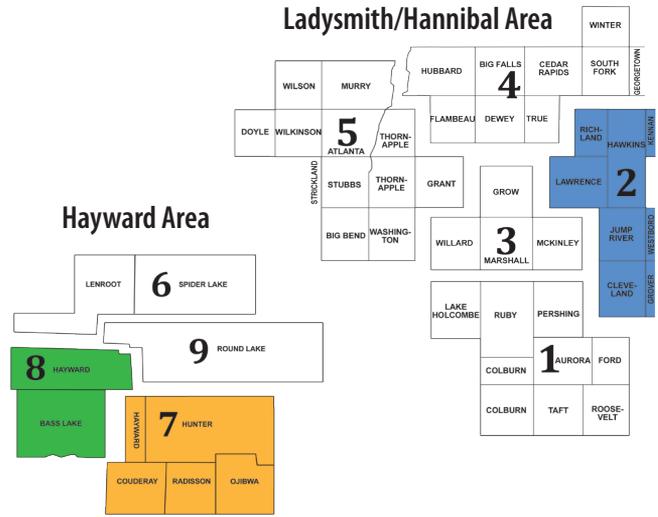
One of the seven guiding principles that all cooperatives abide by is Democratic Member Control. This principle outlines the democracy structure and ultimately means that the membership selects who represents you on the co-op's board of directors.

This is not an option that customers of other forms of business have. Customers may voice their opinions over a business's actions or policies and hope they're heard, but co-op members can act. They can vote for a director of their choice, and they can choose to run for a position on the board themselves. This opportunity comes up every three years in each of JREC's nine districts. Currently, a director can serve up to five consecutive three-year terms, or 15 years.

Directors are asked to not only participate in monthly board meetings, but also to attend other national, state, and local meetings throughout the year. The electric utility industry is rapidly changing. It is a director's duty to understand current issues and how they can affect the operation of the cooperative. In many cases this requires industry-specific education.

### How do I run for the board?

Members who live in one of the three districts (2, 7, and



8) will receive a Petition for Director Nomination in the mail in early January. Those who would like to run for the director position would need to have any 15 or more members of the same district sign a petition for director nomination and return this petition to the cooperative by February 26, 2019. Director candidates are then placed on the ballot according to district, but each member votes for all district positions. Directors must be a resident of their respective district.

For a complete list of director duties and to view the director job description, go to [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com) and click on the About Your Co-op tab, then the Board Contact Information page. If you have any questions on the petition process or what is expected of a director, please contact our office at 715-532-5524.

The April issue of the *WEC News* will contain complete details on the annual meeting as well as the candidate biographies and other information regarding the annual meeting.

Be sure you take advantage of Principle #2, Democratic Member Control, and vote, either by absentee ballot or at the annual meeting. Each membership has one vote.

### OTHER DEADLINES:

#### Rules and Resolution Committee deadline – January 24

Each year, members are appointed by the board of directors to serve on the Rules & Resolution Committee. This committee is asked to adopt rules and procedures for conducting the annual meeting of the members and to review any resolutions that are to

be presented at the annual meeting. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Tammy by January 24, 2019. This committee will meet in March.

#### Petition for Director Nomination and Resolution deadlines – February 26

Anyone wanting to run for a director position needs to submit the Petition for Director Nomination according to the requirements by February 26. The

petitions will be mailed to each active member residing in the three districts up for election in early January.

February 26 is also the deadline for submission of proposed resolutions. This will permit the Rules & Resolution Committee adequate time to consider the resolution and to obtain any additional information needed to make an informed decision.

# COUNTDOWN

## 10 RESOLUTIONS FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEW YEAR

The new year is a time for starting over. If you're looking for a change that can benefit your family, your community, and the entire planet, how about saving energy? As you begin the countdown to 2019, make a pledge to:



10

Turn off lights when you're the last one to leave a room.



09

Switch to energy-efficient, longer lasting LED bulbs.



08

Have your heating and cooling system inspected by a qualified professional.



07

Change furnace filters regularly according to manufacturer's instructions.



06

Adjust the thermostat to save energy at night or when no one's at home.



05

Unplug battery chargers when they're not charging anything.



04

Take shorter showers.



03

Fix water leaks as quickly as possible.



02

Install water efficient showerheads and faucet aerators.



01

Purchase only ENERGY STAR® certified high-efficiency appliances and devices.

It's no secret that New Year's resolutions are hard to keep. Just stick with it. The savings you'll start seeing on your monthly energy bills should be enough to keep you going all year long.

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## ENERGY SAVINGS 101

The tips below will help you save energy, save money, and stay comfortable during the cold winter months. Some of the strategies are free and can be used daily to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to ensure maximum savings through the winter.

If you haven't already, conduct an energy audit of your home. You can find links to home energy audits on our website or at [www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-and-cool/home-energy-audits](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-and-cool/home-energy-audits). These audits can help you find out where you can save the most and consider making a larger investment for long-term energy savings.

### Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

### Cover Drafty Windows

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.
- Learn about other window treatments that can improve energy efficiency at [www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-window-attachments](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-window-attachments).



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### Adjust the Temperature

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it easy.
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

### Find and Seal Leaks

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
  - Energy.gov can also help you detect air leaks, plus you can learn more about air sealing new and existing homes.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

### Maintain Your Heating Systems

- Schedule service for your heating system.
  - Furnaces and heat pumps: Replace your filter once a month or as needed.
  - Wood- and pellet-burning heaters: Clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently.

### Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly—approximately 1 inch—and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. ►



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- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- If you do use the fireplace, install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth. Energy.gov can also provide you with tips for safe and efficient fireplace installation and wood burning.

### Lower Your Water Heating Costs

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees Fahrenheit). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.—Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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## 13 TURKEYS – 13 DAYS – 13 WINNERS

The Lucky 13 turkey give-away has always drawn a lot of participation from the membership and it was no different this year. Starting November 5, a name was drawn for 13 days. The 13 members who were able to take a turkey home in time for Thanksgiving were as follows:

Deanna McGuire, Reanna Miller, Danny Harris (*pictured below left*), Art Schneider, Larry Tosland, and Dennis Laier, all of Hayward, and Diane O'Keefe of Couderay were able to pick up a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal. Thomas Thorson (*pictured below right*) and Dean Chesky of Ladysmith, Clarence Brabbit of Sheldon, Patricia Kowal of Lublin, Glen Galetka of Glen Flora, and Ed Kaehler of Conrath also took home a turkey.



## James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

1102 W. Ninth St. North, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5524 • [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com)

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Denise Zimmer, Editor



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Cooperative, Inc.

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