

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2018



CO-OPS  
COMMIT

To Community

**GRAND  
PRIZE:**

**ENTER A DRAWING FOR A  
CHANCE TO WIN \$1,200 IN  
ENERGY CREDITS!**



**Jump River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

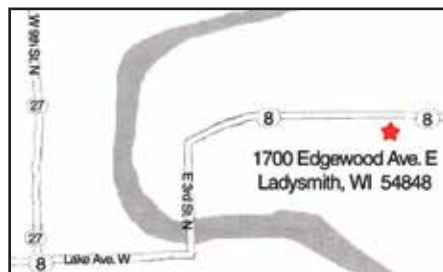


[www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com)

# Notice of the 2018 Annual Meeting

**Saturday,  
September 29, 2018**

**Ladysmith Middle &  
High School Auditorium  
1700 Edgewood Ave E.,  
Ladysmith, Wisconsin**



Meeting Registration: 9 to 10 a.m.

Annual Membership Business Meeting: 10 a.m. until done

Prize drawing held, and door prize given at end of meeting

The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The meeting will include a guest speaker, director elections, and voting on proposed bylaw amendments, with a prize drawing held at the end of the meeting. Action will be taken on the following items of business:

1. Reports from the directors, employees, and special guest(s).
2. The election of three directors for three-year terms: one each from districts 1, 5, and 6.
3. Voting on the Proposed Bylaw Amendments, included in this mailing.
4. Such other business, special or regular, as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

## HOW TO VOTE

You can vote by absentee ballot prior to September 29 or by casting a “meeting day” ballot on the day of the meeting. Absentee ballots will be mailed to each active member. Absentee ballots must reach JREC by mail or be dropped off at our office before close of business on September 28, 2018. One vote per membership.

## \*PRIZES

- **\$1,200 IN ENERGY CREDITS** – A prize drawing will be held at the end of the meeting for a chance to win \$1,200 in energy credits. (If you win this prize you will continue to pay the monthly Fixed Cost of Delivery Charge and JREC will credit you \$100 off your kilowatt-hour charge each month for 12 months.)
- **\$10 ENERGY CREDIT** – A \$10 energy credit coupon will be given to each member (one per membership) who attends the business meeting.

*\*Members must be present to receive a prize.*

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**IMPORTANT  
REGISTRATION  
CARD**

## PLEASE PRESENT THIS CARD TO REGISTER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Bring this registration card with you to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 29, 2018. This card will assist us in registering you and will enter you into the prize drawings held that day. **PLEASE PRESENT THIS CARD TO REGISTER.**

Only JREC members and their immediate family members are eligible for prize drawings. You **MUST** be present to win.



# MEET YOUR DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



**Jump River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**A**s a member-owned business, JREC is governed by a board of directors, which is elected by the membership—Cooperative Principle # 2, Democratic Member Control. Each year, three seats on the board are up for election, and each director elected serves a three-year term. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on September 29 at the Ladysmith Middle & High School. If you plan on voting at the meeting, you will need to register between 9 to 10 a.m. to receive your “meeting day” ballot. This is the only ballot that can be cast that day.

Absentee ballots will be mailed to each member. The absentee ballot is only to be used if you wish to cast a ballot prior to the annual meeting. If casting an absentee ballot, please follow the instructions on the ballot. Absentee ballots must reach us by mail or be dropped off at our office before close of business on September 28, 2018. Copies of the absentee ballot will not be accepted.

As a member-owner, you can vote for one person from each district that is up for election. Your 2018 director candidate for districts 1, 5, and 6 are as follows:

## District 1

### EARL HINKEL, Stanley

My name is Earl Hinkel and I grew up in the Hannibal/Jump River area. I have now lived south of Gilman for almost 40 years with my wife, Peggy. We have two grown married sons and four granddaughters.



I spent the majority of my working career with Scott Construction, retiring as their regional sales manager. I enjoy deer hunting with the bow and gun as well as other outdoor activities. I am currently the chairperson of Aurora Township and also serve on the Taylor County Board. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on these boards in my retirement. I look forward to the possible opportunity to serve on the Jump River Electric Board of Directors.

### JANE REICH, Sheldon, Incumbent

My name is Jane Reich. I have lived in rural Sheldon all of my life. I have been a Jump River Electric Cooperative member for over 45 years. I'm 68 years old and was married to Bill Reich for over 45 years. I have three children and eight wonderful grandchildren. I have worked at a local lumber yard for over 40 years. I have donated my time and energy to local benefits for cancer and amputee victims. I enjoy helping people. I have also helped care for elderly friends and neighbors.



on the power industry. These classes are costly yet their educational value for us, as your directors, is essential in these changing times in the power supply industry. Our cooperative is evolving and for the welfare of us as members, we as directors need to be proactive, not reactive. I work to be as educated and knowledgeable as possible, so I can better serve your interest.

I also am your local Dairyland Power Cooperative director-representative and have been for three years now. This position is filled yearly by election of my peers. Dairyland Power Cooperative is the generation and transmission side of our cooperative and is located in La Crosse.

I am very aware of our ever-changing electrical power structure and embrace being a part of our member effort to work at keeping cost down while providing safe, reliable, quality service.

I look forward to continuing to represent you!

## District 5

### WILLIAM (BILL) VANDOORN, Ladysmith, Incumbent

I became a member of the Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) 39 years ago when I married my wife, Susan, and moved into the JREC family. We have three grown children and five grandchildren. When time allows, I enjoy experiencing the outdoors while fishing, hunting, or gardening. I am a small business owner, a member of the Rusk County Wildlife Restoration Association, and a former member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and its Executive Council.

Being an experienced businessperson, having owned and operated a small auto repair shop in Ladysmith for 29 years, has provided the opportunity to gain valuable experience in listening and solving customers' problems. This knowledge has been useful in representing the membership of our co-op and making tough decisions for the long-term benefit/good of the co-op.

Our new management, under the direction of Jim Anderson, clearly appears to be leading JREC in a positive direction with a very professional and friendly atmosphere, tolerable pricing, and stability. Yes, there are issues that are in the process of being





resolved: LCO easement and penalties, controlling cost while keeping our service dependable, and improving membership involvement to keep them informed of what is happening and why. We must stay in touch with our members to be aware of their personal concerns regarding our co-op. As a board, we are working together to accomplish positive results.

In a broad sense, we as board members must always remember that no matter what the issue is in front of us, our purpose is to supply dependable energy and services at the most reasonable cost possible. With that thought in mind, I ask for your support this election and remind members to stay informed. Stay in touch with the JREC board members and be sure to read the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine for updates on issues facing the co-op as we go forward.

## District 6

### JOHN CERMAN, Hayward, Incumbent



It has been my privilege to have served as the District 6 director since being appointed by the board at the January 31, 2017, board meeting. I built my home in 1980 and became a member of the cooperative at that time; however, most of my early years were spent in DesPlaines, Illinois, and then in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Twelve years ago, I became a permanent resident in Hayward.

My educational background includes graduating from Northern Illinois University, where I earned a bachelor of science degree, majoring in biology and

minoring in chemistry, and a master of science degree in education and biological sciences.

Some of my past professional experience includes working as a high school biology teacher, elementary school district administrator, and president of Educational Aids Incorporated. The latter is a group of three retail teacher supply stores and a national catalog sales and distribution subsidiary I founded and managed. I also oversaw the publishing of a line of supplemental education books when I was the president of Teaching Ink, Inc.

More recently, I was chosen adjunct LCO College Instructor of the Year in 2012 and am currently certified for Board of Review. I am an active member of the Spider Lake Planning and Review board and a current member of the Town of Spider Lake Board of Supervisors.

**The Bylaws provide that the Rules & Resolutions Committee shall meet prior to the Annual Meeting, to adopt rules and procedures for conducting the annual meeting and to review the resolutions to be presented to the annual meeting. The Committee shall consist of not less than 5 members, which shall not include any continuing director or candidate for director. The rules adopted by the committee are as follows:**

## 2018 Annual Meeting Rules

1. As provided in the Bylaws, no resolution on policy affecting Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc., may be submitted by any member unless written copies have been submitted not less than sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting so as to permit review by the Rules & Resolutions Committee and its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.  
  
Resolutions to this meeting have been turned in by July 27, 2018.  
  
Notice to this effect was included in the May, June, and July *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN)* mailed to each member.
2. The Meeting will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as supplemented by these Rules; and, the President has appointed the Cooperative's Attorney, Niles Berman, to act as Parliamentarian of the Meeting.
3. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
4. Only members will be recognized by the Chair; and, each member must give his or her name and address.
5. Members are to limit their comments to three (3) minutes with any rebuttal limited to two (2) minutes. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining decorum during the meeting.
6. Comments from members will be in order during old and new business sessions and after the President's, Manager's, and Financial Reports have been given.
7. At an early point in the meeting, the Chair may declare that registration is closed. No member may then request the return of his or her mail ballot back in order to cast a meeting-day ballot. The tellers may then begin opening and counting the mail ballots, to avoid unnecessarily extending the length of the meeting. Members who have not cast mail ballots may continue to register and cast meeting-day ballots until the balloting is declared closed.



August 6, 2018

TO: The Membership

The Rules and Resolutions Committee, established by the Board of Directors pursuant to Article III, Section 2, of the Bylaws, met on August 6, 2018, to adopt procedural rules for the annual meeting and to review six proposals to modify the Bylaws. As provided in the Bylaws, the Committee considered the resolutions to determine 1) whether each resolution is legally “in order”; 2) whether additional information should be presented to the membership to ensure a full airing of the issue and an informed decision; and 3) whether to make a recommendation to the membership concerning adoption or rejection of each of the resolutions. The Committee makes the following observations and recommendations.

#### Annual Meeting Rules

The Committee reviewed the 2017 meeting rules. Those rules worked well last year. The Committee did discuss two additions. The first addition clarifies the responsibility of the Chair

to make sure the meeting runs smoothly. The second addition will allow the tellers to start counting mail ballots early in the meeting, to avoid extending the length of the meeting. The Committee then unanimously adopted the 2018 Annual Meeting Rules, which are printed with this report.

#### Proposed Bylaw Amendments:

There are six proposed amendments to the Bylaws this year. Four were submitted by members and two were submitted by the Board of Directors. The Committee recommends adoption of all six amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Rules and Resolutions Committee:

Ronda Parker, Chair	Ken Hodowanic	Gene Ludvigsen
Gary Beadles	Peggy Kuehne	Vickie Palya
Doug Dicus	Henry Lew	Fred Stendel
Sue Farrell		

*Editor’s Note: Following each of the proposed bylaw amendments is the recommendation of the Rules and Resolutions Committee, shaded in green. Underlined text within the proposed amendments indicate language that’s been added; text with a line struck through indicate language that’s being removed.*

## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment #1:

Amend Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Tenure and Qualifications, sub. (b)(5), Qualifications, to read as follows (words underlined would be added and words lined out would be removed):

- (5) while a director or during the five years ~~at anytime~~ preceding election or appointment as a director was convicted of any felony or of any other offense involving a breach of trust; or

The member-proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 3(b)(5) of the Bylaws would permanently disqualify a person with a felony conviction, or any conviction involving dishonesty, from serving on the Board. The current Bylaw limits that disqualification to a period of five years following the conviction. The proposal reflects the principle that directors hold positions of trust and so they should be model members.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and recommends that the membership vote **for adoption.**



### Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2:

Amend Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Tenure and Qualifications, sub. (b)(7), Qualifications, to read as follows (words underlined would be added and words lined out would be removed):

- (7) while a director or ~~during the five years~~at anytime preceding election or appointment as a director has been subject to Section 12. Removal of Board Member by Members and has been removed by vote ~~offrom~~ the membership, ~~or~~OR petition validation was completed ~~and~~AND has resigned before the petition was voted on by the membership~~vidence has been heard; or~~:

This member-proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 3(b)(7) of the Bylaws would permanently disqualify a person from serving on the Board if he or she has at any time been removed from the Board by the members, or if he or she has been the subject of validated removal petitions and resigns before the members have a chance to vote on the removal. The current Bylaw limits that disqualification to a period of five years following the removal proceedings. As with the prior amendment, this change reflects the principle that directors should never violate the trust members place in them.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and recommends that the membership vote **for adoption**.

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment #3:

Amend Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Tenure and Qualifications, sub. (a), to read as follows (words underlined would be added and words lined out would be removed):

- (a) ... Directors shall serve no more than three consecutive full three-year terms. Partial terms do not count against the term limit. When a director ~~meets~~reaches the term limit, she/he cannot return to the Board of Directors until one full three-year term has passed. A full term shall be measured from the annual meeting at which the director is elected to the third annual meeting that follows, regardless of the dates the respective meetings are held. Accordingly, a partial term is not created because the annual meeting in the year the term expires is held earlier in the year than the annual meeting at which the director was previously elected. ~~Directors serving in their third (or more) consecutive full term on October 17, 2014, shall be allowed to complete their current term.~~

This Board-proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Bylaws would clarify what a partial term is for purposes of director term limits. Members have asked the Cooperative to consider moving the annual meeting up to the spring, instead of continuing to hold the meeting in the fall. The amendment would avoid any confusion as to what constitutes a full three-year term and what constitutes a partial term for election or appointment of directors. So, advancing the annual meeting date would not change a full term into a partial term just because a term may then be less than 36 months.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and recommends that the membership vote **for adoption**.

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment #4:

Amend Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Tenure and Qualifications, sub. (a), to read as follows (words underlined would be added and words lined out would be removed):

- (a) ... Directors shall serve no more than ~~three~~five consecutive full three-year terms. ...

This member-proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Bylaws would change the term limit for directors from three to five consecutive terms on the Board (or, 15 years maximum vs. 9 years to-day). No incumbent director would be immediately impacted by this change. The objective of the change is to give the Cooperative more benefit from directors' experience and make better use of the investment the Cooperative has in educating its directors. At the same time, it will still ensure that new directors continue to come onto the Board.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and recommends that the membership vote **for adoption**.



**Proposed Bylaw Amendment #5:**

Amend Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Tenure and Qualifications, by creating a new sub. (b), Qualifications, sub. (8), to read as follows (words underlined would be added):

(8) while a director or during the 18 months preceding election or appointment as a director, has been notified by the Cooperative (i) that he or she is delinquent in whole or in part on his or her power bill or on any obligation to the Cooperative and (ii) that he or she is subject to disconnection of service for non-payment or for any other cause.

And, amend sub. (6) of that same section on Qualifications by deleting the clause that now reads, “~~or has been in default on any obligation owed to the Cooperative~~”.

And, renumber what is currently sub. (8) of that same section on Qualifications as sub. (9).

And, in what is currently sub. (8) of that same section on Qualifications, revise the two cross-references to “~~(b)(1)-(6)~~” to read “(b)(1)-(8)” and the two cross-references to “~~(b)(2)-(6)~~” to read “(b)(2)-(8)”.

This member-proposed amendment would create a new Article IV, Section 3(b)(8) of the Bylaws and then update various subsection numbers and cross-references. The change would clarify when being delinquent on obligations to the Cooperative would disqualify a member from serving as a director. The point is currently covered in sub. (6) of that section, but in a way that may create confusion.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and recommends that the membership vote **for adoption**.

**Proposed Bylaw Amendment #6:**

Create a new Article XVII, Dispute Resolution, to read as follows (words underlined would be added):

**Article XVII. Dispute Resolution.**

\_\_\_\_\_ This section does not apply to matters arising out of the application or interpretation of the Cooperative’s governing documents or to matters that qualify for the jurisdiction of small claims court pursuant to the Wisconsin Statutes. Subject to those exclusions, if a controversy or claim arises out of or relates to the Cooperative’s provision of services, a member’s use of Cooperative services, or the Cooperative’s conduct of its operations, the parties shall try to settle the dispute through negotiation. If the dispute is not settled by negotiation and if agreed to by the parties, the parties may try in good faith to settle the dispute through mediation by a neutral third person acceptable to both parties. If the dispute is not settled by negotiation or mediation, at the request of either party, the dispute shall be resolved by binding arbitration by an impartial arbitrator or panel of arbitrators, pursuant to written policies, rules, and/or regulations to be established from time to time by the board of directors. If arbitration is requested, the parties agree to individual arbitration, not collective or class action arbitration, and they agree to abide by and perform any resulting arbitration award(s). The parties shall share equally any arbitrators’ fees and administrative fees but shall otherwise bear their own expenses.

This Board-proposed amendment would create a new Article XVII of the Bylaws on dispute resolution. Matters that do not involve applying the Bylaws or that do not fall under small claims court jurisdiction would be arbitrated. The objective is to avoid the cost and delays and theatrics of litigation, and to have disputes decided by impartial arbitrators, who have access to all pertinent information about the matter. This is a more limited version of the Bylaw that has been adopted by many of the other electric cooperatives in the state.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and unanimously recommends that the membership vote **for adoption**.



## Balance Sheet (December 31, 2017)

ASSETS	2017
Electric Utility Plant .....	\$42,406,577
Less Reserve for Depreciation .....	(13,376,421)
Net Utility Plant .....	29,030,156
Patronage Associated Organizations .....	5,571,060
Investments Associated Organizations .....	736,366
Other Investments .....	17,790
General Cash .....	194,555
Temporary Cash Investments .....	534,895
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Reserves) .....	1,624,061
Materials and Supplies .....	425,115
Other Current and Accrued Assets .....	94,194
Deferred Charges .....	561,737
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b><u>\$38,789,929</u></b>

LIABILITIES	2017
Long Term Debt (RUS-NRUCFC) .....	\$14,852,367
Notes and Accounts Payable .....	\$4,972,312
Customer Deposits .....	334,368
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities .....	552,870
Total Liabilities .....	20,711,917
Patrons' Capital Credits .....	\$22,066,117
Less Capital Credits Retired .....	(7,713,436)
Balance Capital Credits Outstanding .....	14,352,682
Retired Capital Credits – Gain .....	711,159
Membership Fees .....	58,375
Deferred Credits .....	542,073
Other Equities .....	2,413,723
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES .....</b>	<b><u>\$38,789,929</u></b>

## Operating Report

	For the Year	
	2017	2016
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$13,976,696</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,544,888</u></b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
Cost of Power .....	\$7,542,414	\$7,328,531
Operations and		
Maintenance Expense .....	\$2,225,347	\$2,310,839
Collection and Billing		
Expense .....	\$405,471	\$397,581
Customer Service and		
Informational Expense .....	\$55,689	\$120,781
Sales Expense .....	\$88,062	\$71,620
Administrative and		
General Expense .....	\$1,154,025	\$1,103,256
Depreciation .....	\$1,103,549	\$1,063,556
Taxes .....	\$205,262	\$198,429
Interest on		
Long Term Debt .....	\$591,242	\$568,824
Other Deductions .....	\$85,956	\$113,664
<b>Total Operating Expenses .....</b>	<b><u>\$13,457,017</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,277,081</u></b>
Net Income from Operations .....	\$519,679	\$267,807
Patronage Capital Allocations		
(DPC-NRUCFC) and Other		
Non-Operating Income .....	\$428,666	\$666,583
<b>TOTAL MARGINS FOR</b>		
<b>THE PERIOD .....</b>	<b><u>\$948,345</u></b>	<b><u>\$934,390</u></b>

### Who Are Our Members?

Residential	4,297
Seasonal	4,145
Commercial	609
Farms	316
Schools, Halls, Etc	45
Water Pumping	39
Industrial	20
Street Lights	4
<b>Total Meters Connected</b>	<b><u>9,475</u></b>

### 2017 Interruptions of Electric Service

#### Caused by:

Arrestor Failure .....	1	Conductor Break –	
Dig in – Underground .....	7	Overhead .....	6
Power Supplier .....	1	Member's Equipment .....	17
Pole Break .....	2	Storms .....	46
House Fire .....	2	Conductor Break –	
Planned Outages .....	5	Underground .....	18
Miscellaneous .....	8	Unknown .....	10
Vehicles .....	4	Birds and Animals .....	41
Insulator Failure .....	6	Trees and Limbs .....	110
Transformer Failure .....	11	<b>Total .....</b>	<b><u>295</u></b>



# Statement of Cash Flow

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

### Cash Flows from Operating Activities

2017

Net Margins .....	\$948,338
Amortization .....	\$0
Depreciation .....	\$1,335,484
Patronage Capital Allocations .....	(\$471,371)
Loss on Disposal of Assets .....	\$7,144
Provision for Bad Debt .....	\$6,736
Write-offs Net of Recoveries .....	\$4,762
Net Change In Assets and Liabilities .....	\$765,733
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities .....	<u>\$2,596,826</u>

### Investing Activities

Proceeds from Investments .....	\$398,137
Extensions & Replacement of Plant .....	(\$1,865,909)
Plant Removal Costs .....	(\$143,881)
Proceeds on Salvaged Plant .....	\$31,961
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities .....	<u>(\$1,579,692)</u>

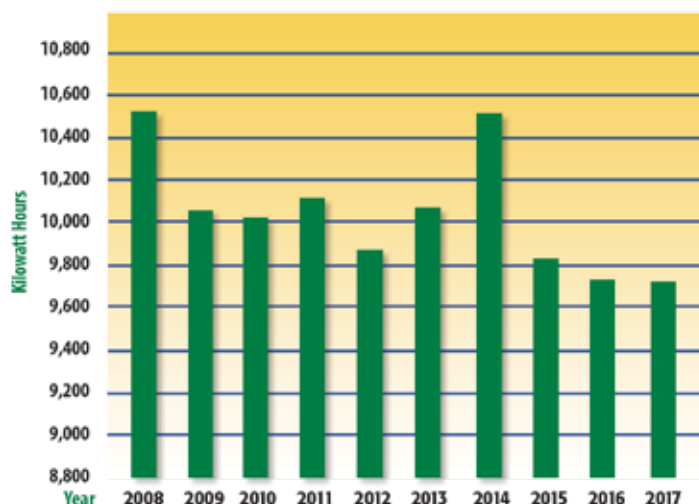
### Financing Activities

Retirement of Patronage Capital .....	(\$368,305)
Payment of Memberships – Net .....	(\$2,425)
Payment to Cushion of Credit .....	(\$125,647)
Principal Payments on Long-Term Liabilities .....	(\$798,808)
Proceeds from Long-Term Liabilities .....	\$2,300,000
Net Borrowing (Principal Payment) on Line of Credit .....	(\$2,100,000)
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities .....	<u>(\$1,095,185)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	(\$78,051)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year .....	<u>\$272,651</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents (less than three month maturities) at End of Year .....	<u>\$194,600</u>

## What We Did During 2017

New Services Built .....	128
Miles of Overhead Line Built/Removed .....	-6.40
Miles of Underground Line Installed/Removed .....	10.42
Transformers Installed and/or Changed to Larger Size .....	108
Meters Tested .....	748
Services Changed for Increased Capacity .....	86
Poles Installed or Replaced .....	221
Dual Fuel Installations .....	0
Water Heater Receivers Installed .....	20

## Average KWH Per Member Per Year



# MAKING A COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE THE YLC WAY

The 55th annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) was recently held at UW-River Falls. Three local students attended the YLC on behalf of Jump River Electric Cooperative and were able to not only learn more about cooperatives and enhance their leadership skills, but they were also able to get a taste of college life as they stayed on campus during this three-day event.

"I had so much fun! This was such a great way to learn more about my community and cooperatives in general. I met so many new people, which I really enjoy doing! The motivational speakers really moved me. They pushed me to try to become the best version of myself," said one student attending the YLC.

Another student stated, "I also gained a better understanding of what a cooperative is and how it works. I never realized how beneficial co-ops are to their communities and members. Lastly, I learned some lessons about how to be an effective leader. I learned that I have to embrace more opportunities available to me."

As indicated in the above statements, this conference helps to inspire students each year. Those students who prefer to

lead and those who prefer to follow all benefit from this conference and, at the end of three days, are more comfortable with being a leader. This is achieved through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences.

The cooperative business model is not typically taught in our schools. Many of the students attending the YLC are learning about cooperatives for the first time. One of the students attending this year's conference had this to say about the YLC experience: "I had a great time throughout the week, and not only learned a ton about co-ops, but got to meet a ton of new people. I was never aware of all the positions related to this field. The activities keep you entertained and the speakers are constantly helping you learn about co-ops and the ideas behind them."

The photos on this page show some of the hands-on activities the students were able to participate in during the YLC.

One of the reasons this conference is different from other youth camps or conferences is that it is planned by and for teens. Six students are elected by



their peers at the YLC to serve on the following year's Youth Board. The Youth Board then plans and conducts the next YLC. These same students are also eligible to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association National Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C., in June.

Sponsoring students to this conference is just another way your cooperative demonstrates two of the seven cooperative principles it was founded on. Those would be principle 5 – Education, Training, and Information; and principle 7 – Concern for Community.







## ONE BRAT OR TWO?

For many years, Jump River Electric Cooperative has set aside three days in the summer to celebrate and appreciate you, the member. We were glad to see that many members were able to attend Member Appreciation Days this past July where we did just that—celebrated you!

We kicked off the three-day event by going back to the location where your cooperative was founded 80 years ago, Jump River, and held a picnic on the first day at the Jump River Community Park. The second day of the picnic was held at the Hayward office with many members joining us there, and even more members joined us at the Ladysmith headquarters on day three.

Members were able to enjoy the brats, hot dogs, beans, chips, and yes... some even enjoyed the sauerkraut. Most members topped off the great lunch with a great dessert, ice cream.

You know you are going to have a great time when the toughest question of the day is, “Do you want a brat or

hotdog?” Or maybe it was, “Would you like an ice cream cone or a cup of ice cream?” Many took advantage of the root beer on hand and made themselves a root beer float.

Many members were able to catch up with neighbors while the kids enjoyed a game of bean bag toss, playing with the frisbee they received that day, or having their face or arms painted—fun for all ages.

General Manager Jim Anderson said, “This was my first Member Appreciation Days with JREC and it provided me an opportunity to visit with many of our member-owners. I enjoyed getting to know our member-owners and listen to their stories as well as answer

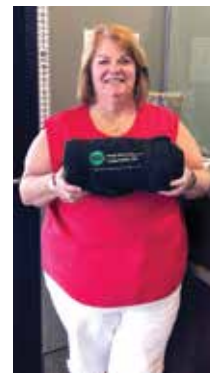
questions they had. Even though the weather didn’t fully cooperate we had a great turnout in each area. I hope even more member-owners will take the opportunity to attend this event next year.”

Three drawings were held at each location. Prizes were an electric grill, JREC reusable bag filled with cleaning supplies, and a JREC logoed blanket. Winners were as follows:

**Electric Grill:** Jim Kane Jr., Sheldon; George Duewerth, Hayward (pictured); and Janet Schomisch, Conrath

**Bag of cleaning supplies:** Doug Driscoll, Sheldon; Roger Bach, Hayward; and Vicki Musiala, Hayward (pictured)

**JREC logoed blanket:** Ken Winger, Sheldon; Sharon Bushman, Hayward (pictured); and Rachael Rosolowski, Ladysmith



Thank you to the members who came and helped us celebrate you, the member-owners of the cooperative. We hope to see you again at the annual meeting in September.



# 2018 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

We congratulate the following high school graduates, who have each been awarded a \$400 Jump River Electric Cooperative Scholarship. These students are from one of the 11 area high schools that are within our service territory.

*There were no applications from Chetek/Weyerhaeuser, Rib Lake, and Winter High Schools.*



Kassidy Leer  
Bruce High School



Katie McEathron  
Bruce High School



Amanda Zimmer  
Flambeau  
High School



McKensy Zimmer  
Flambeau  
High School



Kasee Burton  
Gilman High School



Camryn Skabroud  
Gilman High School



Leah Payne  
Hayward  
High School



John Greene  
Hayward  
High School



Andrew Brosted  
Holcombe  
High School



Alexis Burns  
Holcombe  
High School



Hazel Peterson  
Ladysmith  
High School



Caleb Zahuronas  
Ladysmith  
High School



Maria Acosta  
LCO



Allison Vitort  
Stanley-Boyd  
High School



Ben Boie  
Stanley-Boyd  
High School

Alec Cegler received the \$500 Jump River Electric Cooperative-John Hirschfeld Jr. Lineworker Scholarship, which is awarded to a student attending a post-secondary vocational school program that leads to a one-year Electric Power Distribution/Lineworker diploma.



Catrina White received the \$500 Jump River Electric Cooperative-Charles Kagigebi Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a student attending the LCO Community College.



## At-Large Scholarship Winners



Congratulations also to members who were recently awarded an at-large continuing education scholarship of \$500 each. This year's Jump River Electric Cooperative-Allen Beadles Memorial Scholarship recipients are Elizabeth Sarauer (left), Ladysmith, and Noel Weber, Hayward.

**Monies for these scholarships come from the Federated Youth Foundation, which is funded through unclaimed capital credits. Go to [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com) or see your high school guidance counselor for more information on qualifications and how you can apply for any of these scholarships.**



# A LOOK BACK

**A**s we have stated a few times within this issue, the cooperative turns 80 this year, with the actual date of incorporation being November 10, 1938. While putting together the 75th anniversary book five years ago, I was able to sit down with a few members and heard some fascinating stories about the years before and then shortly after electricity was brought to their home or farm. As you would suspect, life was much easier once electricity was brought into their lives, but most were especially grateful of how it helped them when it came to farm work and milking cows.

## 77 Years and Counting

I recently sat down with John Kmosen Sr. and asked him to recollect what it was like to live without electricity back in the 1940s. He agreed that prior to becoming a member of the cooperative in 1941, life was very different. Milking cows and pumping water were all done by hand, and then once winter started there was the added bonus of pipes freezing up.

For the past 77 years, John has remained a member of the cooperative, and many will also remember his 52 years of service as a director on the board.

“Our organization is known as Jump River Electric Cooperative. I want to stress the word cooperative because this is what it took—having members coming together in a ‘cooperative’ way to obtain rural electric power. I use the words ‘rural power’ because the large power companies failed to provide electric power into the rural areas,” said John.

John recalled how elated the members who had paid their \$5 membership fee were when they learned that R.E.A. (Rural Electric Administration) had approved the funding for Jump River Electric Cooperative. John also stated that his family was especially excited when they obtained electric power in 1941. Here is the procedure for becoming part of the cooperative in those early years, as John recalled:

1. Many of the farmers went door to door obtaining memberships and collecting the \$5 membership fee in the hopes that some day they would become part of the cooperative.
2. A right-of-way easement documentation had to be obtained for the land the poles were to be set on.
3. The right-of-way had to be cleared of trees and brush. Again, many farmers joined together to help with this, especially on their own property.
4. Then came the setting of the poles for which holes had to be dug, in many places by hand. John remembered that his family dug the hole for their yard pole.
5. The wire was unwound and spread with the



use of a horse, which pulled the wire over the ground through the mud, and then it was placed onto the poles. This would be a no-no today due to safety requirements. To John’s knowledge, the original wires that were hung in 1941 are still in place on his farm. “Good wire,” he said.

“We now come to the day of turning on the power, and what a wonderful day that was when the lights came on in both the house and barn,” John remembered. “I remember how bright those three 40-watt bulbs were in the barn compared to those two stinky kerosene lanterns which gave more smell than light. I also remember how wonderful it was to have an electric motor on the pump jacket instead of pumping water by hand for about 30 head of cows.”

John also recalled the days of going to the lake to cut out ice chunks for the family’s ice house so that they could help keep the milk cool.

“Also having a milking machine and refrigeration tank for cooling the milk helped greatly,” he said. “The household had its convenient washing machine, refrigeration, hot and cold water, inside toilet facilities, and other cooking electrical help, making household duties much easier. I remember the large Saturday night bath tub in which the water was heated on a wood-fired stove, prior to electricity, which took hours to heat and replenished each Saturday night,” he recalled.

John also recognized the effect rural electrification has had on our nation. Those who lived in the cities had electricity years before those folks who lived in the rural areas did. Not only did the rural electrification affect the rural population, but it also had an impact on the city cousins who over the years had a desire to live in a rural setting but did not do so because of the lack of electrical power. That desire was fulfilled when rural electrification took place in the late ’30s. ►

*Electricity must have come to us in 1940 or 1941, south of Jump River, Wisconsin, on Spur Five—now called Spur Road. The farm was half a mile west of Highway 73. Our family was living in a log home on the farm and my dad, being a carpenter, had begun work on a frame house, first laying up the basement walls with big stones picked off the fields of our farm. The lumber was sawed at a sawmill from logs from the farm. Building materials soon became hard to find because World War II had begun, and businesses went into making things for the war effort. Consequently, our house never got completed until 1947 or 1948. Power was \$5 a month and you received a certain number of kilowatt-hours for that \$5. The house still looks great and there are other buildings there also. I remember having to turn lights off if you left a room!*

*—By Priscilla Emry Day, Gilman*



John Kmoseň (seated fifth from left) worked with 27 different board members over his 52-year career as a director.



John also shared how he first became interested in being on the board of directors of Jump River Electric Cooperative. Vernon Birong was retiring from the board and a friend had recommended John run for Birong's seat. John was on the town board at that time and felt he could help out the cooperative, so he decided to give this a shot. Fifty-two years later and having worked with 27 different board members, he retired as well. John also held the office of vice-president and president during a good share of those 52 years. He recalled that a lot of those years he worked with men like Mel Pedersen, who served 51 years. John is proud that he and the other men and women on the cooperative board were able to continue the work that was done in the '40s. Quality service, reliability, and cost were always top priorities for him.

When asked what advice he would have for those members like myself, who have never had the opportunity to live without the convenience of electricity, he said, "They should try to understand how much influence electric power has had in rural living."

John also remembered how the family received 40 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a month. They were very conservative and didn't want to use the electricity a lot because to them it was like having batteries—they were afraid the electricity would run out before they got their next 40 kWh.

Recently my family had an opportunity to go camping (the closest to roughing it I get), and our "camping" included hot showers, electricity, stoves, air conditioning, etc. I know, not at all roughing it. Listening to stories from those who have really had to "rough it" makes me appreciate what value electricity brings to my life and how I too take it for granted. Hopefully after hearing stories like John's and Priscilla's, we will all remember to appreciate electricity more and thank those who had the foresight and commitment to cooperative business principles. They built the foundation that continues to support Jump River Electric Cooperative and allows us to all live and work with the convenience of electricity.—Denise Zimmer

## Energy Sense

Together we can...

If you purchase new energy efficient appliances or lighting, or if you take other measures to reduce your home energy consumption, be sure to check and see if you qualify for one of our energy rebates.

### Electric Appliances:

Clothes Washer – \$100  
Refrigerator – \$100  
Dishwasher – \$50  
Dehumidifier – \$25  
Clothes Dryer – \$25

LED Light Bulbs (5 lamp min) – \$2/bulb  
LED Fixture – \$1/800 lumens

Electric Water Heaters  
(75-99 gallon) – \$125 each

Dairy plate cooler/well water  
pre-cooler – \$500 each

Offers may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Go to [www.jrec.net](http://www.jrec.net) for a full list of this program, including renewable energy assessment rebates and grants, or call our office, 715-532-5524 or 715-634-4575.

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## James Anderson, General Manager

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


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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Jump River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Annual Meeting to be held September 29, 2018**



# MINUTES OF THE 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP • OCTOBER 21, 2017

The 79th Annual Meeting of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Cooperative") was held at the Ladysmith High School, Town of Flambeau, Rusk County, Wisconsin on Saturday, October 21st, 2017. Registration began at 8:00 a.m. in conjunction with breakfast being served in the cafeteria.

President Jerry Carow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Presentation of Colors as well as The National Anthem was presented. President Carow welcomed the members of the cooperative to the 79th Annual Meeting.

President Carow thanked the following people: the Ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church of Ladysmith for the preparation of the breakfast, the Rusk County Home Care Services for providing the free blood pressure checks at the Annual Meeting each year, and the Ladysmith VFW for the presentation of colors.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Taguma reported there were 87 members registered and declared there was a sufficient number to constitute a quorum and hold an official meeting.

President Carow announced Attorney Niles Berman would act as parliamentarian at the meeting. Attorney Berman then read the Rules of the Meeting to the membership. Attorney Berman next read the proof of notice of the annual meeting. The official notice of the meeting was included in the *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News (WECN)* that was mailed to all members on September 28, 2017.

A motion was made and seconded by members to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously carried.

President Carow stated the members received a copy of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes in the Annual Meeting Notice that was mailed to them in the *WECN*, and entertained a motion to approve those minutes as distributed. Discussion held to amend the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. (The amendments: added "in regards to a report that has not been given" in the 7th paragraph, relating to submitting questions in advance of the meeting; added a new paragraph after the 16th paragraph, describing the members' request to suspend the rules; and added a reference in the next to last paragraph on a vote of no confidence for Attorney Weld.) A motion was made and seconded by the members to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion was unanimously carried.

President Carow introduced the election inspectors: Gene Ludvigsen, Jackson Reeder, Florence Selonke, and David Trott.

Attorney Berman read the qualifications of the director of the Cooperative and introduced the current directors of the Cooperative. Berman then announced the director candidates, being: District 3 – incumbent Art Thompson, Sheldon, and Joe Lorence, Sheldon; District 4 – incumbent Jerry Carow, Ladysmith; District 9 – incumbent John M. Hanson, Hayward, Sandy Schara, Hayward; and Bob Wick, Hayward. Thompson, Lorence, and Hanson addressed the membership. Member Susan Farrell spoke on Schara's behalf.

Attorney Berman called for questions on the Director Ballot. Being no questions asked, Berman closed the director balloting.

Attorney Berman reviewed the three proposed Bylaw amendments.

Attorney Berman called for questions on the Proposed Bylaw Amendments. Being none, he gave voting instructions and closed the Proposed Bylaw Amendment balloting.

Finance Manager Scott Peterson introduced Gregory Mleziva of Bauman's & Associates. Mr. Mleziva stated the Cooperative's books were in good standing and kept accurately. A copy of the Financial Report was sent to each member in the *WECN* Annual Report and Mleziva reviewed the report therein.

President Carow reported on: approval of the budget, all co-op districts now have representation, and the hiring of a new Attorney. He recognized former interim General Manager Dave Oelkers, Vice President of Human Resources at Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Mary Lund, JREC General Manager James Anderson, and former board member with 52 years of service, John Kmosena. He touched upon the Fixed Cost of Delivery, Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) Judgment, reported that there are 8,404 members and 1,760 miles of line, removal of power cost adjustment, and closing of the appliance division after 60 plus years.

General Manager James Anderson addressed the membership. He reported on capital credit retirement; Operation Round Up for 2018; advancement of meter deployment; member education; right-of-way program; mapping system; comput-

er programming and upgrades; open door policy; cooperative mission statement which focuses on safe, reliable, economical energy; 7 Cooperative Principles; November 10, 1938 incorporation date and history of being energized in 1940 with 179 members on board; provided stats for 2017 of 8,404 members, 9,500 meters, 6 counties, 1,760 miles of line, 24 full-time employees, two substations at Hayward and Hannibal, four at Ladysmith; introduced employees; energy sense incentive and rebate program; and the Evergreen program.

District 1 Director Jane Reich introduced Vice President of Power Delivery at DPC, Ben Porath. Porath reviewed what DPC has accomplished in 2017. He touched upon expected member growth in the upcoming years and provided an update on LACBWR decommissioning.

President Carow called for comments and questions on reports and submitted questions. A comment was read, thanking the panel for sitting on the floor with the members. No other comments or questions.

President Carow called for unfinished business. Michelle Cyr questioned whether or not we needed to vote on a motion that was made last year by member Bruce Anderson allowing membership to change or add to the Annual Meeting Agenda, immediately after Call of Order. Attorney Berman indicated that no vote was needed since the point is covered in Robert's Rules of Order.

President Carow called for new business. There was none.

General Manager James Anderson presented Jerry Carow, District 4 Director, with a certificate for his completion of the Credential Cooperative Director Program, and Jane Reich, District 1 Director, with a certificate for her completion of the Board Leadership Director Program.

President Carow and General Manager James Anderson presented No Lost-Time Accident Safety Awards to employees: Kevin Wright, 15 years – 35,022.5 hours of no lost-time accidents; Joe Donnellan, 15 years – 38,022.5 hours of no lost-time accidents; and Denise Zimmer, 15 years – 33,177.5 hours of no lost-time accidents.

Attorney Berman reported on the director election results. Based on the initial count, Attorney Berman declared the following directors received the highest number of votes in their respective districts and would serve their respective districts for three years, the term specified in the Bylaws of the Cooperative, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified: District 3, Joe Lorence, Sheldon; District 4, Jerry Carow, Ladysmith; and District 9, Sandy Schara, Hayward. Attorney Berman explained that to ensure complete accuracy, and even though there were no close races, the ballots were still being recounted and that the final counts will be reported in the minutes of this meeting. Those final results were as follows: for District 3 – Joe Lorence, 228 votes and incumbent Art Thompson, 78 votes; District 4 – incumbent Jerry Carow, 262 votes; District 9 – Sandy Schara, 178 votes, Bob Wick, 87 votes, and incumbent John M. Hanson, 57 votes.

Attorney Berman then announced the proposed Bylaw amendments all received a majority of votes in favor and were adopted. As with the director elections, to ensure complete accuracy, and even though all the amendments passed by wide margins, the ballots were still being recounted and the final counts will be reported in the minutes of this meeting. Those final results were as follows:

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 1 to amend meeting rules and member resolutions was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 281, and 29 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2 to amend tenure and qualifications was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 277 votes, and 28 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 3 to amend compensation was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 288 votes, and 22 against.

Attorney Berman stated the ballots will 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 and Berman declared the ballots will be retained for 30 days.

General Manager James Anderson reminded the members to turn in their red ticket stub to redeem their attendance gift, which was a \$10.00 energy credit.

The grand prize winner was Tim Smith winning a \$200 voucher towards the purchase of an appliance.

Being there was no further business to come before the meeting, President Carow accepted a motion and second to close the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Motion carried.—Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

# Jump River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors



Left to right: Myron Brooks, District 2; Walter Kruk, District 8; Sandra Schara, District 9; Jerry Carow, District 4; Jane Reich, District 1; Lori Taguma, District 7; John Cerman, District 6; William vanDoorn, District 5; and Joe Lorence, District 3.

## Mission Statement

Our Mission at Jump River Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable, safe, sustainable, and affordable utility services to the communities we serve.

## Value Statement

Jump River Electric Cooperative is a non-profit cooperative utility owned, operated and supported by our members in Barron, Chippewa, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Taylor Counties.

Jump River Electric Cooperative distributes electricity and additional services to our member-owners. We value stewardship, integrity, reliability, quality, cost effectiveness, and compassion in our services.

Jump River Electric Cooperative takes pride in being a trusted provider of energy and other utility services desired by our members.

## JREC FACTS AT A GLANCE

Total Meters Connected.....	9,475
Total Members .....	8,445
Miles of Overhead Distribution.....	955
Miles of Underground Distribution.....	808
Total Poles In Our System .....	19,720
Total Rental Dusk to Dawn Lights .....	706
Total Dual Fuel Accounts .....	1,163
Date JREC was Incorporated .....	Nov. 10, 1938
Year First Energized .....	1940
Full Time Employees.....	24