

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

April 2019

NEWS



WE'RE PROUD TO POWER YOUR LIFE

Lineworker Appreciation Day – April 8, 2019



THIS IS YOUR PRIZE AND REGISTRATION STUB!

Please detach this mailing label along the dotted line and bring it with you to the annual meeting. This stub will also enter you into the prize drawings for a CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$500 IN ENERGY CREDITS!



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.jrec.com

Notice of the 2019 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2019

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.

A chicken dinner will be served following the meeting.

Action will be taken on the following items of business:

1. Approval of minutes.
2. Reports from the directors, employees, and special guests.
3. The election of three directors for three-year term: one each from districts 2, 7, and 8.
4. Voting on the Proposed Bylaw Amendment and Proposed Advisory Resolution.
5. Such other business, special or regular, as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Guest speakers include President and CEO Barb Nick of Dairyland Power Cooperative, JREC's electric wholesale provider, and Architect Linda Powers of River Valley Architects. Nick will be speaking on current matters that impact the electric utility industry, and Powers will be updating the membership on the current plans for building a new headquarters building in Ladysmith.

VOTING OPTIONS – One Vote Per Membership

- **Absentee Ballot** – mailed to each membership. In accordance with the bylaws, any member unable to attend the meeting may vote by mail. Absentee ballots must reach JREC by mail or be dropped off at one of the offices by close of business on April 26, 2019.
- **Meeting Day Ballot** – Members attending the 81st Annual Meeting will receive a “meeting day” ballot at the registration table.

PRIZES

- **\$1,200 IN ENERGY CREDITS** – Drawings will be held at the end of the meeting. Members have a chance to win one of the seven \$100 energy credits being given away or the grand prize, which is a \$500 energy credit.
- **\$10 ENERGY CREDIT** – A \$10 energy credit coupon will be given to each member (one per membership) who attends the business meeting.
- **DOOR PRIZES** - Members will also receive their choice of a multi-tool or a 7-in-1 screwdriver flashlight as they exit the 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, April 27, 2019. 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.

TIME AGAIN FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING



James Anderson General Manager/CEO




It's almost time for your 81st annual meeting on Saturday, the 27th of this month. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. The meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School. Registration starts at 9 a.m. The meeting will start promptly at 10 a.m. This year we will again be offering a

\$10 power credit for attending. At the end of the meeting we will have drawings for seven \$100 power credits; one lucky member's name will be drawn for a \$500 power credit. At the end of the meeting each attendee will receive a ticket for a dinner at JS Supper Club, which will immediately follow the drawings.


This year's speakers include Barbara Nick, president and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative; Linda Powers of River Valley Architects; and Jim Halvorsen from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our auditor. You will also hear from Board President Jerry Carow and me about the direction of JREC and other updates. JREC staff will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have before and after the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please fill out the absentee ballot that will also be arriving shortly and return it to the cooperative as soon as you can so your vote can be counted.

I want to take a minute to let you know that April 8 is Lineman Appreciation Day. This day holds a special meaning to me as I have spent most of my career keeping the lights on and answering the call when power goes out. The job that your crews perform is one of pride and passion. It takes a special person to put the job above family and events that are important, but they lace up their boots and do their job. When the lights come back on there is a special feeling that each lineman gets. This feeling is the pride that they have completed the job and our members now have their power back on. Speaking from personal experience, this is all the thanks we ever needed. I appreciate the fact that we now have national recognition for our lineman and for the job that they do. If you get a chance, please thank them for keeping the lights on.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.



HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE



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

ZONE IN ON SAFETY


Respect roadside work crews.

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


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

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

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




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




DON'T post signs on utility poles.

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

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

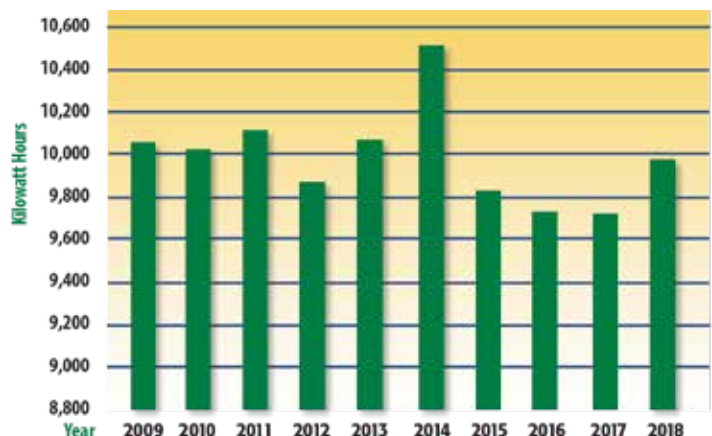


Learn more at 

What We Did During 2018

New Services Built.....	60
Miles of Overhead Line Built/Removed	-7.31
Miles of Underground Line Installed/Removed.....	12.74
Transformers Installed and/or Changed to Larger Size.....	134
Poles Installed or Replaced.....	222
Meters Tested.....	856
Services Changed for Increased Capacity	53
Water Heater Receivers Installed	5

Average KWH Per Member Per Year



MEET YOUR DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Director elections are a foundational aspect of electric cooperatives and the core of a cooperative's open and democratic process, which is what Principle 2 of the 7 Cooperative Principles is all about – Democratic Member Control. As a member-owned business, JREC is governed by a board of directors, which is elected by the membership.

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 April 27 at the Ladysmith Middle & High School auditorium. You will want to attend to not only vote, but to receive additional information on different cooperative projects and matters that affect the electric utility industry. Registration will be from 9 to 10 a.m. You will also receive a “meeting day” ballot during the registration process. This is the only ballot that can be cast that day.

Absentee ballots have been mailed

to each member. The absentee ballot is only to be used if you wish to cast a ballot prior to the annual meeting. Follow the instructions on the ballot. Absentee ballots must reach us by mail or dropped off at our offices by close of business on April 26, 2019. Copies of the absentee ballot will not be accepted.

More information on your 2019 director candidates are below. As a member-owner, you can vote for one person from each district.

District 2

MYRON BROOKS, Gilman, Incumbent

I am honored to be the current director for District 2 of Jump River Electric Cooperative. It has been enjoyable to serve the members of this cooperative. As a director, I have continued my training and have now achieved my Board Leadership certificate.

My wife, Gloria, and I have been members of Jump River Electric Cooperative for more than 40 years and have always lived in the Town of Jump River. I currently operate a farm raising beef cattle and cash crop corn and soybeans. I am on the Taylor County Board of Supervisors where I serve on various committees. I also serve as town chairman for the Town of Jump River. During my 20-plus years on the Town of Jump River board, I have secured grant money for town roads and community park improvements. I am also a charter member of the Jump River Lions Club.

When I was elected as a Jump River Electric Cooperative director in October 2016, the co-op was in complete chaos because: a) a recall was underway for three boards members, b) a director seat in District 5 was unfilled because of a nepotism policy that needed to be revised, and c) the board of directors expense was out of control.

Since then, new directors were put in place, District 5 elected board member was seated, and the board of directors was put on a budget. Jump River Electric Cooperative has gained the respect of our fellow cooperatives in the last two years. This gain was achieved by listening to the voices of our membership, our board of directors working together, and our manager's leadership.

As an acting director of Jump River Electric Cooperative, I was a part of hiring a new manager and choosing a different attorney for the cooperative.

Jump River Electric Cooperative is now moving forward with the LCO easements. With membership approval, Jump River Electric Cooperative will be updating our headquarters in Ladysmith.

If you believe in the progress that has taken place in the last two and a half years, I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.

Thank you, Myron



District 7

JASON WEAVER, Hayward

I am an Army veteran ('92-'95) and a citizen of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. My education includes an Associate of Science from LCOOCC, a Bachelor of Science with a major in sustainable business management from the University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree in tribal administration and governance from the University of Minnesota.

I have worked in the public works sector for most of my career in St. Croix, City of Milwaukee, and LCO Public Works. I have also served on the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Council since 2015 and am currently the secretary-treasurer. My board experience includes serving on the board of directors for Lac Courte Oreilles Financial Services, and I am the vice chairman of the Native American Financial Services Association Board of Directors in Washington, D.C.

Lori J. Taguma, Hayward, Incumbent

Dear Jump River Electric Cooperative members,

During the past 2.5 years, while serving as your District 7 Jump River Electric board representative, fellow JREC board members, staff, and I have accomplished much. We helped to reorganize key Jump River staff members, identified and hired the new general manager, while streamlining organizational business procedures and implementing new cost-effective services to Jump River members. We have overseen the ►



District 8

implementation of the Community Cents program, continue to oversee the educational scholarship program, and continue working with Dairyland Power and surrounding energy cooperatives to provide valuable services, while implementing alternative energy developments such as the electric charging stations at both Ladysmith and Hayward sites.

Please allow me to continue as your District 7 representative by submitting your ballot vote, which will be mailed to each member, by voting at the Ladysmith or Hayward offices, or by attending the Jump River membership meeting in April in Ladysmith.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to continue to serve you while building community.

Regards, Lori J. Taguma

WALTER KRUK, Hayward, Incumbent

I have been on the board of directors for the last three years and currently I am the vice president on the board. I am also the voting delegate for our co-op for NRECA. I am happy to have been a part of this board that has made Jump River Electric a better co-op for its members by being more transparent. We videotape our board meetings, so our members can see the meetings on our website.

My background has helped me with being a board member. When I lived in Illinois many years ago, I was the board president for Sims Motor Transport Credit Union for six years. I have been a volunteer since 1993 for Fishing Has No Boundaries-Hayward Chapter and serve on their finance committee. I am the amateur radio emergency communications director for Sawyer County and also served for two years as the president of the Local Emergency Planning Committee for Sawyer County. For 12 years, I was an EMT for Sawyer County. Also, I served 12 years on the City of Hayward Fire Department and five years with Town of Round Lake Fire Department.

Over the last three years I have attended many training classes and sessions designed to help a board member learn more about how the board of directors can keep the electric co-op strong and able to continue in the right direction for its members.

If I am elected, I will continue to work with the other board members on keeping Jump River Electric a quality electric provider, and keeping our members informed of the co-op's condition.



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:

2019 Annual Meeting Rules

- 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 February 26, 2019.
Notice to this effect was included in the December, January, and February *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN)* mailed to each member.
- 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.
- 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 three (3) minutes with any rebuttal limited to two (2) minutes. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining decorum during the meeting.
- 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.
- 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.



March 11, 2019

TO: The Membership

The Rules and Resolutions Committee, established by the Board of Directors pursuant to Article III, Section 2, of the By-laws, met on March 11, 2019, to adopt procedural rules for the annual meeting and to review one proposed Bylaw amendment and one proposed advisory resolution. Nine of the Committee's 11 members were able to attend.

Resolution and Bylaw

As provided in the Bylaws, the Committee considered the proposed amendment and the proposed resolution to determine:

- 1) whether each 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 proposals. The Committee makes the following observations and recommendations. The full text of the two proposals is printed below, along with an explanation of the Committee's recommendations.

Annual Meeting Rules

The Committee reviewed suggested updates to the 2018 meeting rules. Those rules worked well last year and no substantive changes were proposed. The Committee then (on a 9-0 vote) adopted the 2019 Annual Meeting Rules, which are printed with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rules and Resolutions Committee:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Gary Beadles, Chair | Peggy Kuehne | Kathy Overman |
| Sue Farrell | Henry Lew | Vickie Palya |
| Ken Hodowanic | Gene Ludvigsen | Fred Stendel |

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Editor's Note: This proposed bylaw amendment is the recommendation of the Board and the Rules and Resolutions Committee. The Committee's explanation of its recommendation is shaded in green. Underlined text within the proposed amendment indicates language that's been added; text with a line through indicates language that's being removed.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

Amend Article III, Section 7(e) Voting by Absentee Signed Ballot, to read as follows:

- (e) ~~In the event a member voting by absentee ballot attends such meeting in person, the member's absentee ballot shall be discarded in favor of the vote cast in person at the meeting.~~ Where mail ballots are permitted, the board of directors may similarly permit electronic voting, provided the board has first adopted authentication procedures to govern such voting that in the board's judgment will reasonably ensure that it is the member who is casting the vote and provided the vote is received in the manner, and by the deadline, specified by the Cooperative in the notice of the membership meeting.

There is one proposed amendment to the Bylaws this year, which was submitted by the Board of Directors. The amendment to Article III, Section 7(e) of the By-laws would: (1) allow for the possible use of electronic ballots for the election of directors and for other matters on which the Cooperative makes absentee ballots available; and (2) eliminate the option of casting an absentee ballot and then withdrawing it at the meeting (an option that has not been utilized but which delays the counting of ballots at the meeting). The changes are intended to increase member participation and to avoid unnecessary delays in conducting the annual meeting.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee agrees with this proposal and (on a 9-0 vote) **recommends that the membership vote for adoption** of this Bylaw amendment.

PROPOSED ADVISORY RESOLUTION

Proposed Advisory Resolution:

Resolved, that the membership of JREC hereby urges the Board to consider selling or leasing all or part of the Hayward office and use the savings to minimize the need for rate hikes.

One member-proposed advisory resolution was submitted this year. The resolution would urge the Board to consider selling or leasing the Hayward office in the hope of realizing cost savings. The Committee had a lengthy discussion of the proposal. It was the sense of the majority of Committee members that the building provides needed shop space; that members do visit the building daily, primarily to make payments; that the Board is already looking into the possibility of leasing a portion of the space; and that the resolution is not needed and seems like micromanaging.

The Rules and Resolutions Committee disagrees with this proposal and (on an 8-1 vote) **recommends that the membership vote against adoption.**

Balance Sheet (December 31, 2018)

ASSETS	2018
Electric Utility Plant	\$44,436,756
Less Reserve for Depreciation	(13,924,997)
Net Utility Plant	30,511,759
Patronage Associated Organizations	5,646,086
Investments Associated Organizations.....	736,366
Other Investments	8,031
General Cash	46,134
Temporary Cash Investments.....	2,463,978
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Reserves)	1,131,765
Materials and Supplies	376,885
Other Current and Accrued Assets	104,870
Deferred Charges.	443,866
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$41,469,739</u>
LIABILITIES	2018
Long Term Debt (RUS-NRUCFC)	\$19,294,561
Notes and Accounts Payable	\$3,150,651
Customer Deposits	463,968
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	569,448
Deferred Credits	218,081
Total Liabilities	23,696,709
Patrons' Capital Credits	\$22,775,814
Less Capital Credits Retired	(8,293,871)
Balance Capital Credits Outstanding	14,481,943
Retired Capital Credits – Gain.....	751,470
Membership Fees	56,285
Other Equities	2,483,332
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES.....	<u>\$41,469,739</u>

Operating Report

	For the Year	
	2018	2017
Total Operating Revenue.....	<u>\$14,502,464</u>	<u>\$13,976,696</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Cost of Power.....	\$7,689,794	\$7,542,414
Operations and Maintenance Expense	\$2,147,959	\$2,225,347
Collection and Billing Expense	\$417,454	\$405,471
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$96,755	\$55,689
Sales Expense.....	\$64,767	\$88,062
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,547,348	\$1,154,025
Depreciation	\$1,130,105	\$1,103,549
Taxes	\$227,192	\$205,262
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$649,381	\$591,242
Other Deductions	\$46,736	\$85,956
Total Operating Expenses.	<u>\$14,017,491</u>	<u>\$13,457,017</u>
Net Income from Operations	\$484,973	\$519,679
Patronage Capital Allocations (DPC-NRUCFC) and Other Non-Operating Income.	\$294,334	\$428,666
TOTAL MARGINS FOR THE PERIOD	<u>\$779,307</u>	<u>\$948,345</u>

Who Are Our Members?

Residential	4,252
Seasonal	4,228
Commercial	612
Farms	313
Schools, Halls, Etc	45
Water Pumping	37
Industrial	20
Street Lights	4
Total Meters Connected	<u>9,511</u>

2018 Interruptions of Electric Service

Caused by:		Conductor Break –	
Tree and limbs.....	99	Overhead	4
Member dig in –		Conductor Break –	
Underground	5	Underground	28
Member's Equipment.....	8	Power Supplier.....	2
Pole Break.....	1	Planned Outages.....	3
House Fire	3	Insulator Failure	11
Vehicles	6	Transformer Failure	10
Birds and Animals.....	64	Arrestor Failure	2
Storms	30	Unknown.....	2
Miscellaneous	5	Total.....	<u>315</u>



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LINEWORKER

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage create the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Jump River Electric Cooperative's (JREC) lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family Support System

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important 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. Stefanie, wife to Meter Technician/Lineman Kurt Harris, shared what it means to be a lineworker from her family's point of view. Here is what she had to say.

"Our children are young, but they know what the sound of the ringing phone means – daddy runs out the door to fix someone's electricity."

–Stefanie Harris

"A lineman's career extends way beyond just a job—it is the entire family's way of life. Kurt has been a lineman for Jump River Electric Cooperative for nearly 15 years. His love for this work goes back to his grandfather's 30-plus years as a lineman for Northern States Power,

and stories of 'the days before bucket trucks.' While a lot has changed and continues to change with the work they do, the way of life remains the same.

"Our children are young, but they know what the sound of the ringing phone means—daddy runs out the door to fix someone's electricity. They also know that daddy works long hours—sometimes day and night—when storms blow through. The kids are very proud of him and his important job. They are so excited when we drive by the Jump River Electric



shop or see a big yellow bucket truck on the road. They are always excited to visit with the Jump River employees, especially knowing that Johnny gives them chocolate.

"Being a lineman's family can certainly cause stress and require sacrifices from all of us. While most families are sheltered at home together during severe weather, Kurt goes running into the storm. We stay home, hoping that he is safe and comes home soon. He may end up working 20 hours straight on outages, with no rest and eating only the snacks that the members bring out to them. Kurt comes home hungry and exhausted but satisfied knowing that all of the members are back in service.

"It can also be hard to explain to our family why Kurt's on-call schedule prevents us from attending family events, holidays, and the like. When Kurt is on call, we must stay close in the event there is an outage. This can mean that we don't travel to see family one year for Christmas. Storms, critters, and falling trees don't take a holiday—that may mean that we don't either.

"While there are many sacrifices that our family makes, there are so many great things that come along with it. The Jump River Electric employees truly have their hearts in their job. There is no more passionate group of people, who care so deeply about the work they do. The members are so kind—many have been the only reason Kurt gets something to eat on a long day of outages. Kurt is well taken care of by both his co-workers and the members. Knowing this really means so much to our family. The pride we feel in what Kurt does and the appreciation we feel from the employees and members of Jump River Electric make every sacrifice worth it."

Joe Donnellan, line superintendent, shared some of his thoughts about how his career has impacted his daughter.

"My daughter has been a part of this as long as I have been at Jump River Electric Cooperative, 17 years. I have several



family members that work in this line of business, so you could say being a lineperson is becoming a family tradition. As a child, my daughter was in awe of the big trucks and loved seeing all the equipment at the shop. As she has grown older, her perspective of what I do has changed. Now her focus is more on wanting to make sure her dad comes home safe as she better understands my job, the dangers of the job, and how important this job is to the community we serve. You could say her appreciation for the job has

grown just as much as she has and she now better understands the cooperative philosophy that we work for the members.”

Lisa, wife to Hayward Lineman Cory Andraschko, asks our members: “Do you enjoy being woken up in the middle of the night? Having Thanksgiving dinner disrupted? Or have the worst storm of the summer happening and have to get the coffee going and kiss your husband goodbye? If so, then being the wife of a lineman is the job for you!

“I remember when Cory first signed up for his appren-



ticeship—he looked at me and said, “Are you ready for me to be gone at any time?” Whenever a storm is coming Cory can’t stay off his phone, constantly checking the radar—he can’t wait for the weather to turn—to him storms are exciting. When the phone rings, and he knows there is a possibility of working 24-plus hours; he gets so excited! While he is gone, I don’t sleep. I worry about his safety and exhaustion. The thing is, at the end of the storm work he gets sleep time—moms don’t. Even though I wasn’t out in the storm restoring power I sit up at night waiting to hear the door open and praying he is safe. When Cory finally comes home his eyes usually have black circles underneath, he is in a state of exhaustion, usually wet and muddy, but smiling (and way over-caffeinated).

“Our four kids are so excited to see him and hear how the outages went. He usually has some dangerous (exciting in his opinion) story to share.

“In our home you will find power failure night lights in every room. These are more so for me than anyone, because I know if the power is out Cory is most likely not going to be home. A storm also means if your basement is flooding, your tire goes flat with four screaming kids, or some other job that usually falls on your husband to do, it’s up to you—because they are working and helping other families restore power and get back to comfortable living.

“Before Cory was a lineman, I took power for granted, never once thinking about the dangerous job these linemen have. How they leave their own families to restore power to other people. All I wanted was to have my power restored as soon as possible. That’s not the case anymore!

“Being married to a lineman at times is challenging, but we feel honored to have Cory as OUR lineman. Our children’s water cups are adorned with stickers that say, ‘My daddy’s a lineman, what’s your daddy’s super-power?’ To us he is a hero (he hates when we say that but it’s true); to us that statement is 100 percent true. Lineman don’t get the recognition they deserve—electricity is crucial in all our lives.



“Next time you pass a bucket truck or see those guys out working—wave, thank them, or show them appreciation. Next time your power goes out don’t become frustrated. Remember it’s someone’s loved one out working in conditions most of us wouldn’t leave the house in.”

Thank You

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of JREC’s lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.—*Submitted by Denise Zimmer*



NEW CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM GOES LIVE MAY 6

During the past few months, JREC employees have been working hard to implement a new customer information (billing) system. Our current system was last upgraded in 1995. Technology and member needs have changed over the years, making it necessary to upgrade the customer information system to meet these needs.

With this new system, you will have access to more information regarding your usage, billing history, along with more ways to pay your bill. The bill statement and online payment options will change. **As we get ready to go live with our new system, please be aware of the following dates:**

April 29, 2019: If you currently pay your electric bill online, this is the final day to make a payment through our old system. Bill4U will be unavailable after this date.

April 30, 2019: The customer information system will not be available to process electric bill payments. We will process these payments manually. You may continue to mail in your payment or drop off your payment at one of our offices.

May billing statement (April usage) will be mailed from the existing billing system. Every member will receive a paper statement in the mail this month.

May 6, 2019: The new customer information and billing system goes live. Since this is the first day, our consumer service representatives will be working with your accounts in the new system. We ask for your patience during this transitional period.

June 7, 2019: All members will receive a new billing statement with new account numbers in the mail from the new billing system. Additional information on how to read this new bill statement will be included in this mailing.

If You Currently Pay Online: None of your log-in information will transfer to the new system, which is called SmartHub. Once you are logged into the new system, you will need to set up your account information online at jrec.com. Note, new account numbers will be assigned, and will be listed on your June billing statement, which is for your May usage. Please contact our office to receive your account number after

May 18 if you would like to set up your online account before you receive the June billing statement.

If you currently set up for paperless billing, you will have to reset that option in the new SmartHub system. Again, all accounts will receive a paper bill in May.

Credit/Debit Card Payments: To protect your identity, your credit/debit card account number will not transfer to the new online SmartHub bill pay system. After you set up your account, you will have to re-enter your information.

One-time Pay Option: You will now be able to make a one-time payment by credit card or through your checking or savings account. Registration will not be required. There will be a link on our website to access the SmartHub link under the “Pay Bill Online” tab on the jrec.com home page.

Payment by Credit/Debit Card by Phone: JREC will have a designated phone number for credit and debit card payments. You can once again call our office with a card payment, but you will be redirected to a secure phone line where your payment will be processed. We will be publishing a credit/debit card payment processing phone number in our future publications of this magazine.

Mobile App: Information will soon be available if you are interested in downloading JREC’s new mobile pay app. This will be available for Android and Apple supported smartphones. Please watch for this information in future publications.

Please call our office with any questions.

UTILIZING YOUR BANK’S BILL PAY SYSTEM

Making a payment to your electric account through your bank is another excellent option. Please keep in mind that most of those bill payments can take up to five (5) days or more to process. If you choose to pay your bills through your bank, please pay 5–10 days prior to the due date to avoid a late fee.

RELIABILITY REPORT

Providing dependable electric service is a 24/7 task

Part of being a member of a cooperative is having safe, reliable power. Maybe you don't even think about how reliable the electric service is until you experience a time when you don't have power. This year, we are happy to report that JREC members had power 99.99 percent of the time.

As you can see, your power is extremely reliable. This is something we are very proud of because day in and day out, we work hard to maintain exceptional levels of reliability. There are no shortcuts to achieving reliable power.

This year, we are happy to report that JREC members had power 99.99 percent of the time.

It begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cyber-security threats, and other disruptions that could result in outages. A reliable or resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of gener-

ation—such as wind, solar, coal, and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide you with that safe and reliable power.

Power reliability is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. It's labor, time, and capital intensive, and it's an area of our business in which we can't afford to cut corners or expect anything less than near perfection.

However, power outages do occur, and they can be attributed to various things such as weather, extreme storms, animals, trees, and even planned outages. You can find a chart showing the number of interruptions of electric service and what caused those outages on page 16c.

The highest cause of outages in 2018 was due to tree contacts, which accounted for 31.4 percent of all outages and 24.4

percent of outage hours by cause. Contacts made by animals came in second by outage cause; however, they only resulted in 6.1 percent of the total outage hours.

On the other end of the spectrum, Power Supplier outages accounted for only .6 percent of outages, yet take up the biggest portion of the outage hours by cause with 28.5 percent of outage hours. Another interesting statistic is that the average outage time was just over two hours.

What is a planned outage? Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong as it can be. In order to work safely, it is sometimes necessary to interrupt your electric service. We do take into consideration the time of day and weather; however, there are times when we need to make those repairs in order to prevent a longer outage from occurring if left unattended.

Not all outages can be avoided—such as when Mother Nature decides to intervene. Even though experience tells us that storms in Wisconsin can be severe, we were fortunate this past year to only experience 30 outages due to storms, compared to 46 in 2017. However, when we have experienced extreme storms, Jump River Electric Cooperative has called on other cooperatives throughout the state as part of our mutual aid agreement. We've helped other cooperatives restore power after severe storms, and we have benefited from other cooperatives helping us. So, while we can't prevent all power outages, we stand ready to respond as needed, when needed.

It pays to be a member. Co-ops tend to lead the pack with electricity reliability in both frequency and duration of outages.

DO YOU DEPEND ON LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT?

While JREC strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

We need to know the names and locations of members who depend on life-support equipment. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems. If you or a family member depends on life-support equipment, please call us at 715-532-5524 or fill out the form at right and mail it to us as quickly as possible.

Yes, I depend on life-support equipment...

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Location / Account No. _____

Type of Equipment _____

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?

YES _____ NO _____

If you're on oxygen, how many hours of back-up do you have? _____

Mail this form to Jump River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848



A LOOK BACK

Part 2

Never having lived without electricity, it's hard to truly comprehend what life was like in those days or even the early years once electricity was available to rural areas. Imagine the many daily challenges people faced because there wasn't electricity to run machinery, indoor bathrooms, have running water, or lights to work from late at night. Household chores we now believe to be simple, like washing and drying clothes, were everything but simple in those days. Tasks that may take us a couple of minutes to accomplish today probably took hours in the times before Jump River Electric Cooperative members received electricity in 1940.

The challenge to improve the quality of rural life was taken on by many men and women who lived in the Jump River area in the 1930s. Records show that it all started at the Annual Town Meeting in Jump River, Wisconsin, in April 1938, when Town Chairman D.C. Boeckler appointed four residents to see what could be done about providing electric service to the Jump River area. Many challenges were recorded by the late Frank Skabroud, one of the four men appointed by Boeckler. However, on November 23, 1938, in Jump River, the first meeting of the incorporators was held, and this is where the headquarters of Jump River Electric Cooperative (shown at right) was established. Imagine the anticipation those living in rural areas must have felt knowing that having electricity in their home or farm was now going to be a possibility.

Even though the early incorporators experienced disappointments and some setbacks, they and the local people were determined to obtain electric service. Their dreams finally came true on January 30, 1940, when the system was energized and 179 members over 150 miles of line received

electricity for the first time.

Can you imagine what that day would have been like? I have had the benefit of talking to members over the years regarding this subject and every story is different. Genevieve Seeger of Jump River shared the story of when her grandparents, William and Emma Nagel, flipped on the light switch again after 21 years of being without electricity. They had moved to this area from Iowa in 1917, where they had once enjoyed the benefits of electricity. I don't know about you, but I think it might be harder to live without electricity if you had once experienced its benefits. How would your life change if today you stopped receiving electricity and had to wait 21 years to realize those benefits again?

Some members remember how electricity made chores on the farm so much easier for many different reasons, but one was that they now had lights that allowed them to continue to work after the sun set. Member Ben Host of Bruce shared with me that one of the first items his family purchased after having electricity added to their farm was a milking machine, and since milking by hand was one of his chores, Ben was excited to get the machine. Other members have relayed stories of how they lent equipment to the line crews, like cross-cut saws, to remove trees, and horses to help drag those trees out of the right-of-way. Refrigerators and electric motors added to water pumps were amongst the first purchases members report having made after receiving electricity.

Raymond Blank, a member in our Couderay area since 1959, said, "It was wonderful to get electricity." Raymond loves reading, so he recalled what it was like to read by the light of a lantern at night. Reading became even more enjoyable after receiving electricity because he could now read at any time. Raymond also recalled that with electricity came the ability to have running water, which allowed him to have an indoor toilet and shower installed.

Carol Carlstrom of Ladysmith still has her parents' membership certificate from when they received power in February of 1945. They paid \$5 to become a member of the cooperative and their monthly electric bill was \$3.50, regardless of how much electricity they used. Carol was 4 years old when electricity first came to their home north of Ladysmith. However, she recalled what life was like before receiving electricity. A gas engine was used to run the outside well, and lanterns were





Household chores were much more difficult and time-consuming in the days before JREC brought electricity to the countryside.

used in the house and barn. The cows were milked by hand and the milk was cooled by being placed in cold water. Carol stated, “Dad still liked to strip the cows by hand even after we got milking machines.”

Over the years, members saw many changes to their lives due to the availability of electricity. Gone were the days of cooking on an iron stove or washing clothes from a wash board. Life conveniences, like electric appliances in their homes to TVs, were much more commonplace. I’m dating myself, but I can remember watching TV on a 9-inch black and white TV. I thought I had it rough then, but not even close, right? All these changes to technology—conveniences we now experience in our daily lives—were only made possible because of the efforts made by those who lived amongst us in the early years of electrification.

Today, many of us find ourselves communicating online or by text instead of face-to-face. You can video chat someone long-distance when you can’t visit in-person. Social media brings with it an entire new level of communication that those in the early days probably couldn’t have even imagined. Students now have the option to take classes online and don’t

even have to leave their home. If you have a question, forget the encyclopedia or dictionary—just “Google It” or find a YouTube video. The job place looks much different now with more and more jobs being performed from a home office. I believe we would all agree that more automation and less manual labor is a benefit we all enjoy today because of having the 24/7, 365-days-a-year access to electricity.

Adapting to the changes in technology and member needs is part of daily life here at JREC. However, we must remember, and never lose sight of, how Jump River Electric Cooperative got to where it is today. The Seven Cooperative Principles that formed our cooperative many years ago still define our cooperative today. One value that has remained the same throughout the years is the dedication JREC has to improving the quality of life in our rural communities.

If you want to learn more about the changes ahead for JREC, please come to the annual meeting on April 27. This meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School auditorium at 10 a.m. See the inside cover of this publication for more information on the schedule for the day.—*Submitted by Denise Zimmer*

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

UW-River Falls • July 24–26



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**. If you’re a sophomore or junior, check with your high school guidance counselor for information.



REAP WHAT YOU SOW: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are constant battles for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity offers farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.



**CALL BEFORE
YOU DIG**

To help stay safe and prevent accidents, call 8-1-1 before you dig to get underground utilities marked.

For More Information on Digging Safety
Visit SafeElectricity.org



- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump, or arc, so always keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 9-1-1 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Every day map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org or jrec.com.

James Anderson, General Manager

1102 W. Ninth St. North, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-5524 • www.jrec.com

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


Find us on Facebook 

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Offices will be closed April 19, 2019, due to observance of Easter.

MINUTES OF THE 80TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP • SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

The 80th 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, September 29, 2018. Registration began at 9:00 a.m.

President Jerry Carow called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Presentation of Colors as well as the National Anthem were presented. President Carow welcomed the members of the Cooperative to the 80th Annual Meeting.

President Carow thanked the American Legion for the presentation of colors and Kurt Hoesly for the singing of the National Anthem.

Secretary-Treasurer Joe Lorence reported there were 96 members registered and declared there was a sufficient number to constitute a quorum and hold an official meeting.

President Carow thanked the following guests: Jim Miller, Steve Johnson, Candis Homme, Mary Erickson, Scott Bolstad, and Dean Ortmann.

President Carow announced Attorney Niles Berman would act as Parliamentarian at the meeting. There was no objection, so Attorney Berman dispensed with the reading of the Rules of the Meeting, which were included in the notice of the Meeting. Attorney Berman next read the proof of notice of the annual meeting. The official notice of the meeting was included in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN)* that was mailed to all members on August 30, 2018.

President Carow announced that registration was closed at this time, to permit the counting of ballots to begin.

President Carow stated the members received a copy of the 2017 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. A motion was made and seconded by the members to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

President Carow introduced the election inspectors: Florence Selonke, Vicki Richardson, Jackson Reeder, George Bluesky, and Arian Knops.

Attorney Berman read the qualifications of the directors of the Cooperative and introduced the current directors. Berman then announced the director candidates, being: District 1 – incumbent Jane Reich, Sheldon, and Earl Hinkel, Stanley; District 5 – incumbent Bill van Doorn, Ladysmith; District 6 – incumbent John Cerman, Hayward. Reich, Hinkel, van Doorn, and Cerman addressed the membership.

Attorney Berman called for questions on the Director Ballot. There were no questions asked, so Berman asked members to mark their ballots and then closed the director balloting.

Attorney Berman acknowledged and thanked the Rules and Resolutions Committee: Ronda Parker, Gary Beadles, Doug Dicus, Sue Farrell, Ken Hodowanic, Peggy Kuehne, Henry Lew, Gene Ludvigsen, Vickie Palya, and Fred Stendel.

Attorney Berman reviewed each of the six proposed Bylaw amendments. At the end of each, Attorney Berman called for questions on the Proposed Bylaw Amendments and gave voting instructions. As reported in the meeting notice, the Rules and Resolution's Committee recommended approval of all six amendments.

Amendment 1 – Comments included, "To punish felons for the rest their lives is just wrong."

Amendment 3 – Questions included, "If director resigns during the third term before the annual meeting, can they be re-elected again for three more terms, at the next electoral meeting?" Attorney Berman stated that's not the case."

Amendment 4 – Comments included, "Term limits should stay."

Amendment 6 – Comments included, "Members would have a better understanding of Bylaws if an explanation of each was printed in *WECN*."

When the discussion concluded, Attorney Berman asked members to mark their ballots for or against adoption of each of the amendments, and he then declared the Proposed Bylaw Amendment balloting closed.

General Manager / CEO Jim Anderson introduced Jim Halvorsen of CliftonLarsonAllen. Mr. Halvorsen 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 Halvorsen reviewed the report therein.

President Carow reported on: rate comparison and average monthly cost amongst six local cooperatives, stating that usage has declined; member / owner engagement; Community Cents; charging stations coming to the Ladysmith building and the Hayward outpost; electric vehicles; and introduced a home charging station incentive program.

General Manager / CEO Jim Anderson addressed the membership. He reported on a Year of Progress and Change, indicating that we hit a big milestone – 80 years; touched upon our history – November 10, 1938 incorporation date, energized in 1940 with 179 members on board; provided stats for 2018 of 8,439 members, over 10,000 accounts metered, service in six counties; introduced the 25 full-time employees; presented No Lost-Time Accident Safety Awards to employees: Dawn Zahurones, 15 years – 30,992.50 hours of no lost-time accidents; Jessica Bingham, 10 years – 21,819.50 hours of no-lost accidents; and Jeff Kurtzhals, 10 years – 21,077.50 hours of no lost-time accidents; brought back Willie-Wiredhand, changed the logo on our trucks; 7 Cooperative Principles; Mission and Value Statement; software up-

grade; changing the way we handle members' information; communications; gave an update on discussion with the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe; technology; capital credit retirement; and in summary, we are financially sound, outage times have decreased, improved our reliability, and based on our current observations and calculations, at this time, we are anticipating that there will be NO rate increase for 2019.

District 1 Director Jane Reich introduced Manager of Energy, Efficiency and Technical Services at Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Jeff Springer. Springer presented a slide show on electric vehicles and touched upon the following: pure electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles you can buy today; pure electric vehicles coming soon; barriers to electric vehicle adoption – prices too high, lack of places to recharge, range of vehicle on a full charge, long recharge time, battery replacement cost, and technology is too new; and electric vehicle charging options.

General Manager / CEO Jim Anderson introduced River Valley Architect, Linda Powers. Powers presented to the members a "space needs study" of our current headquarter facility site. Information was gathered on each existing building regarding the space needed for day-to-day business for both current and future needs; square footage was assigned to the different functions needed; both the management team and board of directors toured other facilities; building space analysis was developed; and looked at existing facility first to come up with four possible solution options.

President Carow called for comments and questions on reports and submitted questions. Springer, Powers, Anderson, and Davis addressed the following questions: different chargers – what cars can you plug into each of those units; price to charge one vehicle; extra license fee for tax purposes; can electric lines infrastructure handle these cars; how do we handle the disposal of batteries; interest – community solar project; what kind of mile range do electric vehicles have; how much do charging stations cost; what is this going to cost the tax payer; and put all voting ballots in one magazine, not two.

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 1, Jane Reich, Sheldon; District 5, Bill van Doorn, Ladysmith; and District 6, John Cerman, 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 1 – incumbent Jane Reich, 154 votes and Earl Hinkel, 69 votes; District 5 – incumbent Bill van Doorn, 190 votes; District 6 – John Cerman, 181 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 with one exception, 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 Tenure and Qualifications – Felony Conviction was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 183, and 26 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2 to amend Tenure and Qualifications – Removal was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 185 votes, and 21 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 3 to amend Tenure and Qualifications – Clarification of Partial Terms was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 191 votes, and 18 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 4 to amend Tenure and Qualifications – Change Term Limits was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 118 votes, and 87 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 5 to amend Tenure and Qualifications – Delinquencies was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 184 votes, and 17 against.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 6 to create a New Article – Dispute Resolution was adopted, with a vote for the Bylaw Amendment of 149 votes, and 53 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.

President Carow called for unfinished business. Member commented on the elimination of the appliance division along with service of those appliances.

President Carow called for new business. There was none.

General Manager / CEO Jim Anderson reminded the members to turn in their red ticket stub to redeem their attendance gift, which was a \$10 energy credit and to pick up their dinner voucher to JS Supper Club.

The grand prize winner was Doug and Ronda Parker winning a \$1,200 (\$100 per month) voucher towards their energy bill.

Being there was no further business to come before the meeting, President Carow accepted a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m. Final registration was 102. Motion carried. — Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

4.8.2019
LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Thank You

IT TAKES A TEAM TO
POWER A COMMUNITY



Safety is our highest priority at Jump River Electric Cooperative, and our goal is to be a zero-incident workplace, where every incident is preventable. Everyone Home Safe Every Day emphasizes our cooperative commitment to safe practices in and out of the workplace.

We all want the best for the people in our lives—our family, friends, community, and others. That includes you, our members. That is why our #1 rule is: SAFETY FIRST!

No questions asked, when we work on your lines, we are working to improve reliability and safety for not only you, but for our lineworkers too. If you see something that doesn't look quite right,

we encourage you to call our office and report it. Safety is truly a team effort. Everyone at JREC is involved in advancing a positive, strong safety culture every day.

The benefits of a safe workplace are many and far reaching. Pictured on the front cover are just a few of our lineworker families who understand, first hand, the importance of getting everyone home safe every day.

