

PARTICIPATION DRIVES CO-OP SUCCESS



**Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By **James Anderson**
General Manager/
CEO

Another annual meeting of the membership is fast approaching. The meeting is set for April 25, 2020, at the Ladysmith High School Auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to hold the board of directors' election for districts 3, 4, and 9; vote on other matters such as proposed bylaw changes; and share important financial and industry information. Details regarding the agenda, director elections, proposed bylaws, prize drawings, and the chicken dinner will be provided in the April issue of this magazine. A ballot will also be mailed separately to each membership.

There has been a lot of activity here at your cooperative, some that has been easy to see and some not so visible. The annual meeting is a great way for you to get information from the board of directors and the management on the health and projects of JREC. This year we will be taking an in-depth look at where we measure up with other cooperatives, at both a state and a national level. Sarah Bullock, regional vice president from Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), will be our featured guest speaker and she will go over Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTAs) of JREC operational data. This information will give you a very clear picture of where we are in relationship to our fellow cooperatives. In addition, we will have updates on our progress with the LCO and the new headquarters building, just to name a few of the topics we will be reviewing.

If you have never attended a meeting before, you may be wondering why you should attend one now. It's simple: Member input, or the lack of member input, will ultimately impact the success of your cooperative. We need to hear from you when we are doing something you like and when you feel more direction is needed. As they say, we get out of life what we put into it.

We are asking our members to get involved because this is your cooperative. Come to the annual meeting, serve on a member committee, spend time with us at our member appreciation days, and even consider becoming a director in the future.

When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all those who live in our neighborhoods.

While technology offers a lot of convenient ways to electronically communicate with each other, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all those who live in our neighborhoods.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. Please make sure to join us and to be an active part of your cooperative. The board of directors, employees, and I are looking forward to seeing you and visiting with you at the annual meeting or at the chicken dinner that we will be hosting immediately following the close of the April 25 meeting.

NATIONAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY March 6, 2020

This “informal” holiday was created back in 1995. This holiday provides us with a great opportunity to express our gratitude to the men and women who work hard each day to ensure your lights remain on. Employees are a company's greatest asset. That is why we would like to invite you to stop by our offices on March 6 and share a cup of coffee with your co-op employees and allow us to also appreciate you, our member-owner.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to personally thank the employees of Jump River Electric Cooperative for working safely each day and for their commitment to this cooperative and its members.—*Jim Anderson*





LIVE OUTAGE MAP ON OUR WEBSITE

In the past few months we've been working on upgrading our internal outage management system. With the improvements came the ability to provide you, our members, with a live map, where you can see outages in real time. If there is an outage in an area, that area will be highlighted with a color indicating the estimated number of members out of power.

You can view this by clicking on the orange "Live Outage Map" button at the top of our jrec.com home page. This outage map is provided as a courtesy to keep members informed. Outage numbers are estimates at the time the map is updated; and accuracy is not guaranteed for official publication purposes. We would like to emphasize that this map is very generic, with little fine detail for member safety purposes.

Always report your outage. Never assume that someone else has called it in or that we are aware of your particular outage, regardless of what the outage map shows. Here are the ways to report an outage and make sure we know you are still without power.

- **Call us at 715-532-5525 (Ladysmith) or 715-634-4575 (Hayward) during working-hours or 866-273-5111 after-hours. Have your account number available.**
- **Report your outage through the SmartHub app available online at jrec.com.**

While on our website, visit the jrec.net/outages page for safety tips and other useful information on what to do when the power goes out.

CONTROLLED BURN TIPS

Properly controlled burns can have many benefits for agricultural land. However, if not managed safely, they can cause property damage, power outages, injury, and even death.

JREC urges you to first make yourself aware of laws and regulations. Only those who are experienced with fire and burn paths should conduct a controlled burn. Avoid burning near public roads or airports, as this can create a potentially dangerous visibility hazard. Alert those who potentially may be affected by the burn—including neighbors, the local fire department, and law enforcement. Depending on local regulations, you may also need to obtain a burn permit.

Take special note of power poles and lines. Burning a power pole could cause a widespread power outage and be costly for the individual responsible for the fire.

Cut down grass and weeds at least 5 feet around the pole, and water the area near the poles as to not encourage fires to encroach. Be careful to keep water streams out of power lines.

If a power pole catches on fire, call the fire department and alert JREC to handle the possible electrical dangers. Even if you think you can put out the fire yourself, alert JREC to the fact that the pole caught fire. The creosote, a preservative, could still be burning the pole from the inside out. In addition, if the pole catches on fire, it could create shock or electrocution hazards to those who may be nearby or spark fires in unintended directions from downed lines.

Also, keep environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and wind direction and speed in mind. The wind speed in the area should be low and in a steady direction to keep the fire from getting out of control. Environmental factors are subject to change, so check forecasts and actual conditions before you begin.



TAX-EXEMPTION FORMS

If you or your business qualify for tax exemption, a Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate needs to be on file at our office for the sales tax to be exempt from your electric account. You can download the form at jrec.com by clicking on the Membership Forms button on the home page.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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RESTORATION THE COOPERATIVE WAY

You won't find many businesses today that regularly promote using less of their product. But that's just what JREC does—that is the cooperative way. Your cooperative provides tips on ways to conserve energy, which saves you money. Energy Sense rebates are available for changing out your old appliances, lighting fixtures, and much more to updated models that are more energy efficient, again saving you money. And members can also receive grants for adding renewable energy units to their service, which can help subsidize energy cost. I could continue, but you get my point.

Looking at all the ways JREC encourages members to save on energy consumption led me to think of various ways that we as members can follow this example in our personal lives. A few months ago, I stated in this magazine that I was a "Do It Yourself" (DIY) TV junkie. DIY projects usually involve taking available materials and restoring

or repurposing them into a product that gives the "old material" new life without much expense on your part.

Your cooperative provides such materials to its members. If you see used pallets and empty wire spools outside our office, help yourself and start a DIY project. My husband and I (mostly my husband) have plans of taking a wire spool and turning it into a flower garden this summer, and a second one into a deck table. We plan on getting the family involved by transforming the wood top of the used spool (soon to be deck table) into a mosaic work of art. At least, that's the plan. There are so many ways to reuse this one product. If you visit Pinterest, you will find many examples such as racetracks, inside and outside tables, and bookshelves.

Do you have a DIY project that you or your family recently completed that shows how you took an item that would have been considered trash and restored it into something that works for you to-



day? If so, I'm looking for members who would like to share their DIY projects with other members on our Facebook page. Simply submit before (if possible) and after pictures of this project and a brief description of what the project involved, and we'll do the rest.

As a bonus, members who submit a DIY photo in March will be entered into a DIY photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit. Another great opportunity to save you money the cooperative way!—Denise Zimmer

MEMBER WARNING

There is an online bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with Jump River Electric Cooperative, but it is not. Doxo.com is a third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, Doxo.com may charge the member extra fees and your cooperative cannot control when we will receive the member payments from Doxo.com. This could possibly result in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying Jump River Electric Cooperative directly, visit our website, www.jrec.com or SmartHub, your cooperative's online bill payment portal.

DOXO.COM IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Jump River Electric Cooperative

Pay your Jump River Electric Cooperative bill

\$ Amount **PAY BILL**

LOG IN

Pay Your Bills Securely

- Download the Doxo app from the Google Play & Apple App Store
- Use the app to pay bills with reminders and scheduled payments
- Real-time tracking and bill history
- Pay 60,000+ billers directly from your phone

Also known as Doxo, this service to organize all your provider accounts in a single app, enabling reliable payment delivery to thousands of billers. doxo is not an affiliate of Jump River Electric Cooperative. Logos and other trademarks within this site are the property of their respective owners. No endorsement has been given nor is implied. [Learn about doxo and how we protect users' payments.](#)

Online Links

www.jrec.com/

Jump River Electric Cooperative FAQ by doxo

- Is online bill pay available for Jump River Electric Cooperative?
- Where can I login to my online Jump River Electric Cooperative account?
- I need help logging in to my Jump River Electric Cooperative account. Where's the best place to get help?
- What's the best way to contact customer support for Jump River Electric Cooperative?

MORE JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FAQs



EMPLOYEE RECIPE CORNER

A lover of exercise would be one way to describe Jessica Bingham, your cooperative's work order accountant and social media guru. In fact, she can be quoted as saying, "The best way to start a Monday is to RUN!" And run she does as she participates in many races throughout the year. Jessica is currently training for a full marathon this coming June.



"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." That's one of Jessica's favorite quotes by Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition to running in her free time, Jessica is a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant, and is very involved in helping with many of the community events with the Greater Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce as well as Women with Courage Foundation. Snowmobiling with her friends and family is another way Jessica passes her time in the winter, snow allowing of course. As spring and summer approach, she looks forward to camping and spending as much time as possible at the lake and riding in the UTV. However, when weather doesn't allow her to be outside, she loves to cuddle up with a good book.

Even though Jessica admits to not liking many vegetables in her youth, she now enjoys a few and the recipe she chose to share features one, cabbage. "It's so good, and to think I used to think I didn't like cabbage!", says Jessica about her Unstuffed Cabbage Roll dish. Jessica has worked at JREC since 2007.

Unstuffed Cabbage Rolls

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1-1/2 to 2 lbs. lean ground beef or turkey | 2 cans (14.5 oz. each) diced tomatoes |
| 1 Tbsp. oil | 1 can *(8 oz.) tomato sauce |
| 1 large onion, chopped | 1/2 cup water |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | 1 Tbsp. ground black pepper |
| 1 small cabbage, chopped | 1 tsp. sea salt |

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add ground beef and onion and cook, stirring, until ground beef is no longer pink and onion is tender. Add the garlic and continue cooking for 1 minute. Add the chopped cabbage, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pepper, and salt. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 20-30 minutes, or until cabbage is tender. Yield: Serves 6 to 8.



GROW

THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY



Putting safety first requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. JREC reminds farmers to:

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; DO NOT get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/ power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines — even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 911 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **IF YOUR EQUIPMENT DOES CONTACT A POWER LINE**, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.
- **ONLY EXIT THE EQUIPMENT IF IT'S ON FIRE.** Jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, hop to safety.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.com

38th Annual Rusk County Farm, Home & Garden and Sports Show

MARCH 28, 2020

9 a.m.–2 p.m. • Ladysmith High School
 Located on State Highway 8 at the east edge of Ladysmith

All area residents are invited. Come in, view the displays, have lunch, and meet your local dealers and industry representatives. Stop by the JREC booth and learn more about electrical safety.




James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

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 715-532-5524 • www.jrec.com

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

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Denise Zimmer, Editor



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Since 1938

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