



By James Anderson
General Manager/
CEO

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU TO BE AWARE OF

What is normally a time when we all look forward to the snow melting and the change in seasons bringing the warmer weather back has unfortunately been disrupted by the unanticipated issues that have come with the coronavirus. It has disrupted the lives of everyone, and for JREC it is no longer business as usual.

Our mission statement: *Jump River Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable, safe, sustainable, and affordable utility services to the communities we serve. We will continue to serve the communities and members*

that rely on JREC to keep the lights on.

JREC will be voluntarily fully complying with Public Service Commission Emergency Order #11. Until this State of Emergency has been lifted, we will not be disconnecting any member's service. I encourage our members who have run into hard times to please contact our office and work out a payment arrangement to avoid any disruption in service once the order has been lifted.

The JREC Board of Directors has also postponed our annual meeting tentatively to July 25. This measure is aimed at protecting you, our member. By not holding a meeting during the outbreak of a contagious disease we

hope to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection. Our concern is for the safety of you, our member, and our employees who keep the lights on. Be sure to keep your April issue of this magazine as this will be the only annual report you will receive.

All absentee ballots will remain unopened and in a secure location until the annual meeting is held. Your vote will still count!

Please follow all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and help protect yourself and others in our communities. We will get through this crisis together.

Stay safe and well, Jim.



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY

Jump River Electric Cooperative offers links to resources to help business owners.

Small businesses are at the heart of local communities. During the current situation of extended economic uncertainty, there are numerous state and federal resources available to help businesses. Visit www.jrec.com or www.EconDev.DairylandPower.com to access links and more information on these programs.

"We value the role our local businesses play in supporting our communities. Like cooperatives, business owners and their employees are our neighbors—we are in this together," said Jim Anderson, general manager/CEO.

Given the high level of need, applications should be submitted as soon as possible. The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship released a guide to help businesses learn more about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. It offers guidance on the following topics:

- **Paycheck Protection Program** to cover the cost of retaining employees
- **Emergency Economic Injury Loans & Grants** to offer immediate assistance to small businesses
- **Small Business Debt Relief Program** to help business owners navigate the challenge to keep up with payments on current Small Business Administration (SBA) loans
- **Resources** to access free counseling services

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is also offering a Small Business 20/20 Program for current community development financial institution (CDFI) clients. Businesses that are not CDFI clients can work with the WEDC to access funding through other programs as resources become available.

Local financial institutions, local small business development centers, local economic development organizations may be able to help businesses navigate the application process on some of the above-listed loan and grant programs.

Our Members

If there are members who have concerns about paying their electric bills, they should contact the cooperative as soon as possible via phone, email, or online. Employees will help work out a payment plan with the member. While the JREC lobby is currently closed to allow employees to take precautions to stay healthy. Together, we will #PowerOn.

JREC contact information: Call 715-532-5524 (Ladysmith), 715-634-4575 (Hayward), or 866-273-5111 (after-hours). You can also pay securely by phone by calling 888-255-6489 or online at jrec.com/pay-my-bill. Email us at jrec@jrec.com.



WE'VE MOVED

On March 23, the cooperative began its move into the new headquarters building. Our address continues to be 1102 West 9th Street North as we have moved just north of the old building. Vicky, our

consumer service representative, is ready to greet you once we are able to reopen the lobby.

The headquarters now offers a Community Room that members will be able to utilize in the future. This room seats up to 60 people and can be used by

community organizations for meetings and small gatherings. The cooperative will utilize this room for industry-wide educational meetings as well, to reduce the cost normally associated with employee and board of director educational training.



HELP POWER COMMUNITY CENTS – SIGN UP TODAY

Growing up there were people who came into my life and gave to me selflessly, one of which was a missionary named Brother Leroy Adair. He was a man of simple means and a lot of love for God and people. He has been a lifelong

inspiration to me. He taught me to give when I had nothing, and that lesson has never left me.

The Community Cents program is an amazing way our members can give and know that the causes it supports will be receiving 100 percent of their donations. How do you give? You can sign-up by completing the form at left. Energy bills that follow your sign-up will be “rounded-up” to the next highest dollar. For example, an energy bill for \$92.73 would be rounded up to \$93.00, with the additional 27 cents going to the Community Cents program.

Small change indeed, but multiplied by 8,500 members, it is small change that changes lives. On average, this program will cost a member around \$6 a year with the maximum being \$11.88 a year.

Just as the citizens who joined together so long ago to bring power to rural Wisconsin when private power companies refused, Community Cents helps members band together to support worthy causes in our community.

The Community Cents board is made up of some of the most diligent, caring ladies I have ever met, and members can be assured that they will make thoughtful decisions when allocating the donated funds. The committee members are pictured below.

A quote I love from one of my favorite authors is “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”—Margaret Mead

Submitted by Jennifer Belk, JREC Executive Assistant/Human Resources/Office Supervisor

OPT-IN FORM

Yes! I want to sign up to have my monthly bill rounded to the nearest dollar. I know that this money will be donated to a worthy cause, chosen by the Community Cents, Inc. Board of Directors. I understand that by signing and returning this form, my bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar and that unless I call in to have that changed, this will happen until I no longer receive power from Jump River Electric Cooperative.

Account # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848





YOU COULD WIN \$50 IN OUR POSTER CHALLENGE!

Area youth—are you up for a challenge? Grab your art supplies and participate in our 18th annual poster contest in tribute to May being National Electrical Safety Month. Create a poster that depicts ways to be safe around electricity and submit it to our Ladysmith office by dropping it off or mailing it to the address on the entry ticket below. Please follow these guidelines:

- Poster must depict how you can be electrically safe at home, outside, or at school.
- You must be between the ages of 5 and 14 to enter.
- Complete the drawing ticket and attach it to the back of the poster.
- Submit poster by June 6, 2020.

Three \$50 cash prizes will be awarded, one contest winner per age category. Age categories are as follows:

5–7 years of age • 8–10 years of age • 11–14 years of age

Winning posters will be featured in JREC’s local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.

Poster Entry Ticket

Name _____

Member Acct. _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Phone _____

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith WI 54848

MY CO-OP



PREPARE A BACKUP PLAN IF YOUR HEALTH RELIES ON ELECTRICITY

Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) is committed to providing you with safe and reliable energy, but it’s impossible for us to guarantee uninterrupted power. Outages caused by severe storms, vehicle accidents, tree limbs, animals, equipment failure, or other problems could leave you without power for hours or, in very rare cases, days.

That is why it is important if you or someone in your household depends on any life-support equipment to have an emergency backup plan. It is also important that JREC is aware of your need for life-support equipment.

Before an emergency arises, JREC suggests the following:

- Obtain a backup source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any critical care equipment you have in your home. For example, battery backups, portable battery pack, or portable generators can provide you with the electricity you need until power can be restored.
- Keep a full charge on battery-operated devices or have extra batteries on hand and check these batteries periodically. Unused rechargeable batteries may need charging.
- Keep your cell phones charged so you can call for help and family and friends can check on you. Be sure this cell number is also listed as your primary contact number with JREC.
- Have a plan. Talk to relatives or friends about places you can go in the event of a long-term outage.

JREC makes every effort to give priority in restoring service to members on life-support systems. If you or a family member depends on life-support equipment, please fill out the form below and mail it to us as quickly as possible. You can also call us at 715-532-5524 to provide us with this information. Please be sure you continue to update us when and if your life-support equipment changes or if back-ups or generators are added to your location.

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



COMBAT CABIN FEVER

Let's face it, one of the perks of working outside your home is simply getting out and being amongst other people. Social distancing can be hard on everyone, kids included, and with the need to avoid contact with one another to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 come inevitable boredom and the dreaded "Cabin Fever."

Here are some tips on what you can do to avoid feeling cooped up and how to keep those kids entertained, regardless of what may be going on around us:

- **Get outdoors and keep everyone moving.** Kids need to exercise too! In fact, preschoolers need at least 180 minutes of physical activity each day, while kids ages 5 to 17 need 60 minutes of mild to moderate exercise a day. Keep kids entertained by having a dance or karaoke party.
- **Break out a good book.** For helpful suggestions and reviews, check out a website like goodreads.com.
- **Start a new hobby.** A few ideas include knitting, stained glass, Sudoku, wood working, fishing, sewing, adult coloring book, and painting.
- **Try a new recipe.** The possibilities are endless on Pinterest. Be sure to involve the kids.
- **Do a puzzle.** It's a little old-school, but still fun.
- **Pull out some old board games or a pack of cards.** What a great way to spend quality time with the family.
- **Engage in some spring cleaning.** Knock off some of those items on your "honey-do" list.
- **Rearrange your furniture.** Sometimes a few moves is all it takes to make your place look new.
- **Plan your next vacation.** Thoughts of warmer days spent outdoors are nice to have when you are stuck at home.
- **Take a Virtual Field Trip.** The Great STEMporium offers Virtual Fieldtrips of famous museums, zoos and more!
- **Have a movie and popcorn night.** Dig out an old favorite or stream or rent something new.
- **Research your family history and create a family tree.** Find out more about your heritage by talking to older family members or simply documenting what you know for the next generation.
- **Write a letter to touch base with an old friend or family member.** Everyone loves getting an actual letter that's not a bill or solicitation.



DIY March Winner

The March DIY Photo Contest Winner, Judy Soyring, took a family heirloom that was falling apart and turned it into a beautiful coffee table. Soyring earned herself a \$25 energy credit for her entry.



"The Secret of Happiness is Freedom, and the Secret of Freedom is Courage."
-Thucydides

To those who courageously gave their lives and those who bravely fight today, thank you. Thank you for the freedoms we are so blessed to have because of your service.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Memorial Day.

Our offices will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

1102 West 9th Street North • P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-5524 • www.jrec.com

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

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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Denise Zimmer, Editor



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Since 1938

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