



Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 23, No. 1 January 2013

District Meetings Scheduled

Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

As a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative, you have a right to vote for who will represent your district on the board of directors. This elected director is your voice to the Cooperative.

Jackson Electric Cooperative is divided into nine director districts and one director from each district makes up the Cooperative's board of directors. District meetings are held in three of the nine districts each year and one director is elected at each district meeting. The newly elected directors begin their term following ratification at the annual meeting that will be held

the evening of Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

This year's district meetings will be held on the following dates and locations. All meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.:

- **District 1** (Towns of Garfield, Northfield, Hale and Curran) – Tuesday, February 5, 2013, at Northfield Town Hall; incumbent is Stan Gran.
- **District 6** (Towns of Albion [south of Cty. Rd. P] and Brockway) – Monday, February 4, 2013, at Jackson Electric Cooperative; incumbent is Roger Hansen.
- **District 9** (Towns of Melrose,

North Bend, Farmington, Gale, Franklin and Burn) – Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at the Melrose Town Hall; incumbent is Gary Woods.

Obligations of the Board of Directors

The board of directors provides leadership and guidance to Jackson Electric Cooperative's management. Their primary responsibility is the establishment of long-term, broad objectives, purposes and visions for the cooperative. The board of directors:

- Ensure the operations are consistent with the articles and bylaws, understand the corporate philosophy, act in good faith in handling the affairs of the cooperative, avoid conflicts of interest and represent the best interests of the members.
- Understand and read financial statements and help in distributing this and other relevant information to the members.
- Should not act independently on matters that should be decided by the entire board nor should they receive special favors from the managers or employees.

If you are unsure what district you are in, go to www.jackelec.com/your_co-op/directors and view the director's map or contact our office.

Time-of-Use Pilot Program Offered to Members

At the September 2012 board meeting, the directors approved a Time-of-Use pilot program for the first 50 members who commit to the program through February 28, 2014. This program is designed for members who are able to shift their electric usage to off-peak (low cost) hours.

This program could possibly save you money on your electric bill if you can shift the use of large electric appliances and electric heating and cooling during the hours when energy demand is low and electricity is less costly to produce. If you can, this program may be the correct fit for you.

The following chart explains Jackson Electric Cooperative's Time-of-Use rate:

Pilot Time-of-Use Service			
Facility Charge/Mo.	Summer High Cost Hours (June-August) (1:01 p.m. – 5 p.m.)	Winter High Cost Hours (Dec. - Feb.) (5:01 p.m. – 9 p.m.)	Low Cost Hours (All Other Hours)
\$46.00	\$0.56510/kwh	\$0.21930/kwh	\$0.07340/kwh

If you are interested in learning more about the Time-of-Use program, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative. Sign up for this program is available January 1-June 1, 2013. A signed commitment will be required by the member.



District 1
Incumbent
Stan Gran



District 6
Incumbent
Roger Hansen



District 9
Incumbent
Gary Woods

Load Control Events to Decline

Many load control events were issued in December and that raised some concerns by our members. Since this writing, you may have noticed that the number of load control events has declined. Changes were made by Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale energy provider, which will reduce the number of load control events for the remainder of the winter.

Spot shortages in the regional power pool caused by transmission line congestion caused high energy prices which is the main driving force behind the frequent load control events. This change will result in higher energy prices for our power supplier.

If you have any questions regarding the load management program, please contact our office.

Test Plot Co-op Holds 2nd Annual Meeting

Several members attended the 2nd annual Test Plot Cooperative meeting on Thursday, December 27 at Jackson Electric Cooperative. President Dan Anderson called the meeting to order following a pizza lunch. Past president Will Peasley spoke about the meaning of FFA and the opportunities available. Eric Jacobson from Federation Cooperative discussed possible plans for next year's test plot. Members then voted on bylaw amendments. To conclude the meeting, cash door prizes were given.



Members present were, left to right, Evan Markhardt, Zach Markhardt, Eric Markhardt, Dan Anderson and Will Peasley. Seated are Nikkole Leisgang and Zach Wensel.

Space Heaters Can Be Costly

It's that time of year when our office receives many high bill calls. After a thorough bill investigation, many times we find the member has a space heater operating. Space heaters will increase your electric bill if used for long periods.

Some things to remember about space heaters:

- All electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient.
- A 1,500-watt milkhouse electric space heater produces the same amount of heat as a 1,500-watt household quartz or infrared electric space heater. Pay attention to the watts, not the price of the unit.
- Use the following calculation to determine the cost of operation of your electric space heater:

Watts/1,000 x \$0.1130 x number of operational hours = cost of operation

For more information on ways to save on your heating bills this winter, contact Steve Meyer at our office.

Scholarships Available

Jackson Electric is once again offering a \$750 scholarship to each one of the high schools in the service territory. Please contact your high school guidance counselor for more information.

Students who are home-schooled, enrolled in a private school, or are open-enrolled are also eligible for a \$750 scholarship. Please go to www.jackelec.com/public_relations/scholarships for more information.



Employees Support Community Event

Jackson Electric employees and their families took a break from the holiday bustle and volunteered their time to wrap and box presents for Project Christmas on the evenings of December 11 and 13 and also helped deliver the gifts. Those employees giving their time were:



Left to right: Jerel and Jen Gunning and their daughter Camille and Jeff and Denise Cook with their daughter Sonja. Sonja also participates in Jackson Electric's Youth Ambassador Program. Not present for the photo, but also volunteering their time were General Manager Greg McFarland and his wife, Arlis, and board director Dan Smrekar.

The employees also presented a check to Project Christmas for \$100 from their ice cream bar sales.



Connections newsletter is published for members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative. Questions or comments should be directed to Carol Blaken, Editor, at:

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

