

# Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 24, No. 1 February 2014

## GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I look forward to seeing you at Jackson Electric's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls. Make sure you bring your March Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine with you, as it will serve as your annual report during the meeting. When you bring the March magazine issue to the meeting, your name will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit.

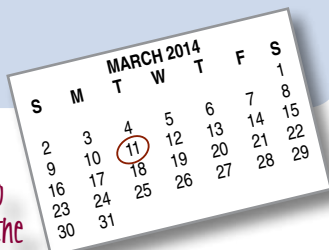


The recent frigid temperatures have caused concern over fossil fuel supply and price. With the volatility of the fossil fuel market, many have discovered it's difficult to budget for home heating. Be assured the price of electricity remains stable for the most part. Stated in the article adjacent to my column, you'll note that our dual fuel participants pay \$0.06/kWh. To put that into perspective, you would have to buy propane at \$0.47/gallon to equal the cost of heating with an air source heat pump at \$0.06/kWh. Not only is the price affordable during the heating season, but the heat pump provides low-cost cooling during the warm months also.

As you contemplate retrofitting your existing heating system, consider a heat pump. Go to jackelec.com or contact our office for more information.

Safety always,

*Greg*  
Greg



We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

## Record Low Temperatures Boost Heating Costs

Last month, the news was covered with stories regarding the shortage of LP gas in the Midwest and the increase in prices for LP and natural gas. At that time, it was projected the price for both of these fossil fuels will climb.

Members using electric heat on our dual fuel program pay \$0.06/kWh. Below is a cost comparison chart with electric heat and fossil fuels.

Electric heat is by far more efficient and affordable than fossil fuel heat.

If you feel you must use a space heater to supplement your heating needs, please remember the heater will operate at the regular electric rate

of \$0.1130/kWh. It is wise to use the space heater in a small, closed area only to supplement and lower some propane use. Please keep safety measures in mind when operating an electric space heater.

All space heaters are 100 percent efficient and watt-for-watt cost the same to operate, regardless of their retail price. In other words, all 1,500-watt heaters provide 1,500 watts of heat and use the same amount of electricity.

| Fossil Fuels vs. Electric Cost Comparison  |                            |                                  |                                     |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Air Source Heat Pump</b><br>325% efficient  | <b>LP</b><br>95% efficient | <b>Fuel Oil</b><br>84% efficient | <b>Natural Gas</b><br>95% efficient |
| \$0.06/kWh   | \$0.47/gallon              | \$0.63/gallon                    | \$0.51/therm                        |
| <b>Geothermal Heat Pump</b><br>400% efficient  | <b>LP</b><br>95% efficient | <b>Fuel Oil</b><br>84% efficient | <b>Natural Gas</b><br>95% efficient |
| \$0.06/kWh   | \$0.38/gallon              | \$0.51/gallon                    | \$0.42/therm                        |
| <b>Electric Resistance Heat</b><br>100% efficient  | <b>LP</b><br>95% efficient | <b>Fuel Oil</b><br>84% efficient | <b>Natural Gas</b><br>95% efficient |
| \$0.06/kWh   | \$1.52/gallon              | \$2.05/gallon                    | \$1.67/therm                        |
| <b>Example:</b> If you currently heat with LP (propane), you would have to buy propane at \$0.47/gallon to equal the cost of heating with an air source heat pump at \$0.06/kWh. |                            |                                  |                                     |

## Jackson Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014**  
**Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.**

Jackson Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls, Wis. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served before the meeting.

Highlights of 2013 operations will be presented, as well as ratification

of directors elected at this year's district meetings. For official notice of the meeting and proposed bylaw amendments, please watch for your March Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News (WECN) issue.

Your March WECN issue will be your annual report. Bring that issue to the annual meeting, and your name will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit. Cash door prizes will be awarded, as well as a \$10 energy credit to every registered membership in attendance.

# Scholarships Available

Jackson Electric Cooperative is offering a \$750 scholarship to each of the following high schools:

- Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan
- Black River Falls
- Blair-Taylor
- Melrose-Mindoro
- Neillsville
- Osseo-Fairchild
- Sparta
- Whitehall

Please contact your high school guidance counselor for more information on this scholarship. Scholarship recipient is selected by their respective high school.

## Home-schooled, private school and open-enrolled students:

A \$750 scholarship is also available to students, whose parents/guardians are Jackson Electric Cooperative members, in this category. Scholarship

applications can be downloaded at [jackelec.com/public\\_relations/scholarships](http://jackelec.com/public_relations/scholarships) or from our office. Application deadline is March 14, 2014.

## Adult Scholarships

Jackson Electric Cooperative is offering \$250 scholarships to adults who are continuing their education at an accredited technical school, college or university, credit or non-credit course(s). The student must be an active member of Jackson Electric Cooperative (name of student must be on the billing account), 25 years of age or older, and must display a strong desire to obtain a secondary education or advance in his or her career. Applicant cannot receive a scholarship more than once in a 12-month period.

Applications are available at [jackelec.com](http://jackelec.com) or our office.

# Directors to be Ratified at Annual Meeting

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 three-year term following ratification at the annual meeting. Directors re-elected and will be ratified are:

## District #2

Director **Junior Jacobson** is from the Alma Center area and has been on the board since 1998. He has taken courses throughout the years to obtain both his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications. He serves on Jackson Electric's Labor Committee.



## District #3

Director **Jerry Huber** has served on the board since 1999. He recently completed his term on the WECA Board of Directors and is currently vice president on Jackson Electric's board. Jerry and his wife, Vicki, reside in the Humbird area.



## District #8

Director **Dan Smrekar** has served 33 years on the board of directors. He represents the cooperative on the WECA Education Committee and serves on Jackson Electric's Labor Committee. Dan resides in the Millston area.



*You're Invited*

## Better Homes Expo

Saturday, February 15 • 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Western Technical College  
Lunda Center, La Crosse, Wis.

If you're planning to build a new home or desire to improve your existing home's comfort and efficiency, this free event may be for you. Enjoy seminars, hands-on demonstrations, displays and an opportunity to tour a high performance home. Learn more at [ecw.org/betterhomesexpo](http://ecw.org/betterhomesexpo) or call 608-210-7114.

## Electronics and White Goods Recycling Drive

Tuesday, April 22  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Jackson Electric Cooperative, along with 5R Processors, is once again sponsoring the Electronics and White Goods Recycling Drive in celebration of Earth Day. For more information regarding the Electronics and White Goods Recycling Drive, please contact Dana Duzy at 5R Processors at 715-532-2078 or [dduzy@5rld.com](mailto:dduzy@5rld.com). A list of accepted items and charges is at [jackelec.com](http://jackelec.com).

In effort to handle all recyclables, please bring them to the recycling area before 3 p.m.



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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**Outage Only Number:**  
855-222-DARK (3275)

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.



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