



Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 24, No. 3

September 2014

GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Next month we will celebrate October is National Co-op Month. The time of year when the 29,000 plus co-ops in the U.S. take a few moments to ensure their employees, members, and the public truly understand the value of the cooperative business they own.

Cooperatives, including Jackson Electric Cooperative, operate according to the same core principles and values adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). These principles can be traced back as far as 1844.

Jackson Electric Cooperative has served its members for 77 years and continues to operate according to the cooperative principles. Members vote for directors to represent them on the nine-member board; members receive capital credits based on their patronage; cooperative meetings are held to educate members about services available from the cooperative; and cooperatives, locally, regionally, and nationally, work together for the betterment of its members.

Throughout the years, our industry has been challenged with adversity and change, but Jackson Electric Cooperative has always been able to rely on its members for support. Help us celebrate you, our member, during National Co-op Month.

Safety always,

Seven Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Electric Payments on the Go

Are you always on the go? Do you find you don't have time to pay your electric bill? Do you use a smart phone? Electric bill paying just got more convenient with a mobile electric bill paying app from Jackson Electric Cooperative. This is a free service offered to Jackson Electric's members.

Once you have your account set up on the Bill4U site through jackelec.com, you can pay your electric bill from your smart phone. Go to either the Apple Store (Apple-based smart phone) or Google Play Store (Android-based smart phone), search for "Jackson Electric Bill4U", and install the app.



Enter your username and password and you'll have access to your account summary, statements, electric usage and schedule a payment using a credit card or automatic payment withdrawal. Please note that credit card information needs to be established on Jackson Electric Cooperative's Bill4U site before being accessible on the mobile site.

Does this app work on your iPad? You bet it does! Search for Jackson Electric Cooperative's Bill4U in the App Store and locate it in the iPhone section.

For more information or questions regarding this service, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative.

Wanted: Your Current Phone Number and E-Mail Address

Please update your phone numbers and e-mail address with Jackson Electric Cooperative. Current contact information is essential in keeping members informed about planned outages, cooperative events, and other services provided by the cooperative. Your current phone number is also linked to your location for after-hours calls taken by our response center. We do not give your contact information to other organizations for solicitation purposes.



Fees Assessed to Late Electric Payments

Electric bill payments are due the first day of every month. Any account with an amount due after the 10th day of the month shall have either a late payment fee of \$15 or a finance charge of 1.5 percent per month applied, whichever is greater.

REMINDER • REMINDER

Frost Charges

If you plan to have Jackson Electric install electric service on your property after November 1, an additional charge will be applied if the conventional method of electric service installation is not feasible due to frost.

Thank You, Members!

More than 600 members attended Jackson Electric Cooperative's Member Picnic in the Park on Tuesday, August 12, at the Lunda Park in Black River Falls. Everyone in attendance enjoyed good conversation and good food. Thank you to all the members for supporting their electric cooperative.



Tune-Up Your Heating System

If you give your car a tune-up for maximum performance, then why wouldn't you give your heating system a tune-up for maximum efficiency? According to energy.gov, heating can account for nearly one-half of your home's energy use. That's reason enough to tune-up your heating system before the cold weather settles in.

Your heating system professional will inspect your heating system so that it operates as efficiently as possible. While the technician is at your home or business, make sure you learn what maintenance is required to keep your heating system operating efficiently. Remember to replace your air filters once a month to maximize efficiency.

For additional heating system efficiency and home comfort, consider having an energy audit conducted by a certified energy consultant.

For additional heating system efficiency and home comfort, consider having an energy audit conducted by a certified energy consultant. Contact Jackson Electric Cooperative for more information on this and available member incentives.

Electric Space Heater Reminder

Before the weather turns cold and the electric space heater ads begin to pummel the media outlets, Jackson Electric Cooperative wants to remind you that even though electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient, they still use a significant amount of electricity. Electric space heaters will increase your electric bill if used regularly. If you must, use an electric space heater for supplemental heat in a small area. They are not designed to heat your entire house.



Looking for ways to lower your heating bill this season, contact Jackson Electric Cooperative and ask about electric heating options and the dual fuel program.

Green LifeXpo

**Saturday, September 13, 2014
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Milt Lunda Memorial Arena
Black River Falls**

Stop by the Jackson Electric Cooperative booth to learn how heating and cooling your home with geothermal can save you money.

Recycle your worn-out electronics during the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Electronics recycling sponsored by Jackson Electric Cooperative.



Jackson Electric Gives to Area Fire Departments

Exercising the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, Jackson Electric Cooperative recently donated \$1,000 to eleven area fire departments. Fire departments receiving donations were Alma Center, Black River Falls, City Point, Hatfield,

Hixton, Melrose, Merrilan, Taylor, Farmington, Fairchild and Sparta (Cataract). Jackson Electric recognized all fire department representatives for their volunteerism and dedication to each of their communities.



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.



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