



# Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 24, No. 4 December 2014

## \$864,278 Retired Capital Credits Disbursed to Members

If you purchased electricity any time during the years 1993 through 1996, you will be receiving a capital credit retirement check this December. Jackson Electric Cooperative will retire \$864,278 in capital credits to its members.

Because Jackson Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization, owned by its members, any excess revenues, called margins, are allo-

cated and retired to members in the form of capital credits. Before retiring capital credits, the board of directors consider the financial condition of the cooperative and the needs for capital funds for the upcoming years. Capital credit retirements for electric service is made on an approximate 20-year revolving cycle.

To learn more about capital credits, go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).

## Thank You, Members!

More than 1.1 million comments nationwide were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing new regulations for new and existing power plants; 1,950 of those comments were submitted by Jackson Electric Cooperative members. Thank you for your support!

### What happens next?

The EPA's public comment period ended December 1. The EPA plans to finalize their proposal and issue a finalized rule in June 2015. Between now and then, the EPA will review the comments they received and host meetings with stakeholders, to include electric cooperatives. Throughout this

period, expect numerous congressional hearings on both sides of the Hill.

Some of the spotlight of the EPA proposal will soon shift to the states. Starting in January, expect state legislatures to consider resolutions that influence how their state will deal with the EPA proposal. This proposal holds states responsible for developing plans to comply with new regulations to limit carbon dioxide emission levels from new and existing power plants.

Balancing affordability and environmental stewardship can be achieved. So, until June of next year, we'll need to keep in contact with both state and federal arenas as EPA works toward a final rule.

## Welcome, Ron!

Ron Blado has been hired to replace retiring member services director Steve Meyer. As many of you may know, Steve will be retiring on December 31, 2014.



Familiar with electric cooperatives and experienced in the member services area, Ron comes to Jackson Electric from Pierce Pepin Electric Cooperative where he was the member services manager for the past 11 years. Before that, he worked for Oakdale Electric Cooperative as a load management technician.

"I am very happy to be given the opportunity to serve the Jackson Electric organization and its members. My experience will mesh well with the programs and policies of the cooperative," says Ron. "I am encouraged by the welcome I've received and look forward to continuing to provide excellent service and sound advice."

## Don't Forget the Rebates!

Jackson Electric Cooperative offers rebates and incentives on qualified Energy Star appliances, lighting, heat pumps, and energy efficient home improvements. Go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or contact our office for more information. **Deadline for rebate submission is December 31, 2014.**

Watch for the January issue of the *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News* for 2015 rebates and incentives.

## Portable Electric Space Heater Tip

Even though all electric space heaters are 100% efficient, they still use a significant amount of electricity and will cause increases in your electric bill if used regularly. Electric space heaters are not designed to heat your entire house; use an electric space heater for a small area.

For ways to save money during the heating season, contact Jackson Electric Cooperative and ask about electric heating options and the dual fuel program.



### REMINDERS • REMINDERS • REMINDERS

Please **Remember To Update Your Phone Number and E-Mail Address** with Jackson Electric.

Check out Jackson Electric Cooperative's new website at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).

# Youth Ambassadors Raise Money for Food Pantry

Jackson Electric's Youth Ambassadors raised \$872.09 for the Friends Sharing Food organization, with Jackson Electric matching that for a total donation of \$1,744.18

to the countywide organization.

Youth ambassadors from the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, Black River Falls, and Melrose-Mindoro schools were challenged to raise money at

one home volleyball match and one home football game. The school that raised the most money for the organization received a \$200 donation from Jackson Electric. Students from Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan High School won the challenge by raising \$441. Team members were Kandi Shramek, Kayla Green, and Traci Langan.

The support of community members, school administration, and student bodies helped make this fundraiser a success.



Jackson Electric Cooperative Youth Ambassadors raised money for the Friends Sharing Food organization. Students are from Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, Black River Falls, and Melrose-Mindoro High Schools. **Seated (L to R)** LeeAnn Hertzfeldt, Courtney Hintz, Kayla Green, Kandi Shramek, Kristen Johnson, and Traci Langan. **Back (L to R)** Mitchel Gjerset, Matt LaFauange, Eli Parker, Roger Jessie, Nate Parker, Coy Halverson, and Joey Stange. Absent were Devin Newby and Jenny Malchow.



Students from Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan won the Friends Sharing Food Community Service Challenge as part of their participation in Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program. Left to right, Kayla Green, Kandi Shramek, and Traci Langan.

## Scholarships Available to Graduating High School Seniors

Jackson Electric Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to each of the following high schools:

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



**school guidance counselor for more information and qualifications on this scholarship.** Scholarship recipient is selected by the respective high school.

### Home-Schooled, Private School, and Open-Enrolled Students

A \$1,000 scholarship is also available to those students in this category. Scholarship applications can be downloaded at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) under the Community tab or from our office.

**Please contact your high**

## Employees Give Back

### Cooperative Principle #7 – Concern for Community

Jackson Electric Cooperative employees recently donated \$400 to the Taylor Parks and Recreation Department. Employees select a community organization or charity that is in need and every Friday, the employees are encouraged to give a monetary donation to support that cause.

The employees are proud to give back to the members who are served by the cooperative and area communities. To date, the employees have given back more than \$10,000 since 2009.



Taylor Parks and Recreation Department officer Eric Steien, left, receives a \$400 check from Jackson Electric Cooperative employees Matt Bush and Brian Schultz.

## Holiday Hours

**Jackson Electric Cooperative will be closed December 24, 25, and January 1. If you experience a power outage during this time, please call the outage only number at 855.222.DARK (3275).**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



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

**Jackson Electric Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 546

Black River Falls, WI 54615

Phone: 715.284.5385 or 800.370.4607

**Outage Only Number:**  
855.222.DARK (3275)

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

