

Jackson Electric Cooperative Announces General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors announces the hiring of Kevin Babcock as the new general manager/CEO of the cooperative, effective January 1, 2015.

Babcock has been with Jackson Electric Cooperative since 1987. During his 28-year tenure with the cooperative, Babcock has worked in the operations department starting as a line worker working his way up as operations manager. Babcock has served the cooperative in a management capacity for 13 years as operations manager and most recently as interim co-manager.

A lifetime resident of Black River Falls, Babcock is a graduate of

the Black River Falls High School. He received his associate's degree in technical studies from Western Technical College, and his lineworker apprenticeship from Chippewa Valley Technical College. He is active in the community, currently serving on the Town of Albion Board. Babcock is a United States Army veteran.

He is married to Julie (Byrns) from Black River Falls. Kevin has two sons, Jim and Nathan; two stepchildren, Zach and Ally; and one grandson and another grandchild expected in March. Kevin enjoys the outdoors, snowmobiling, and working on the farm. ■



District Meetings to be Held in February

Jackson Electric Cooperative is divided into nine director districts; 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 a director is elected at each district meeting. The newly elected directors begin their terms following ratification at the annual meeting. This year's district meetings will be held on the following dates.

District #5

Monday, February 9, 2015, at Jackson Electric Cooperative at 7:00 p.m.; incumbent is Dave Peasley.



District #7

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at the Irving Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.; incumbent is Brian Huber.



District #4

Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at the Taylor Community Center at 7:00 p.m.; incumbent is Chris Curran.



If you have a meter in one of these districts, you should have received a meeting notice the week of January 26. If you have any questions regarding the district meetings, please contact our office.

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 directors:

- Ensure the operations are consistent with the articles and bylaws, under-

stand 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.

Excerpt from Article III, Section 2. Election of District Directors.... "Nominations for director to represent the district shall be made from the floor at the district meeting, and in addition to the other qualifications required by these bylaws, the prospective director must be a resident of the district he or she is to represent. Election shall be made by secret written ballot." ■

Rules of the Annual Meeting

At the November meeting of the board of directors, the following rules of the annual meeting were approved. These rules are set in accordance with Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article II, Section 7. Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised edition.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized by the chair; each person so recognized must give his or her name.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the chair, those recognized are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
5. Questions and comments from members and duly registered guests will be in order during old and

new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports, if invited.

6. No resolution affecting Jackson Electric Cooperative may be submitted by any member, unless written copies have been received by Jackson Electric Cooperative by February 13, 2015. This will permit time for review by the Jackson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors to make its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
7. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the

place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the annual meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the cooperative supports or opposes any resolution.

8. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

Annual Meeting Voting Procedures

1. Voting may be by voice vote (one vote per membership). ■



Mark Your Calendars!
Jackson Electric Cooperative's
78th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 31
Business meeting at 7 p.m.
Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls

Your annual report will be included with the March WECN issue.

Electric Space Heater Reminder

Overall, the seasonal temperature has been mild, but we still have the February chill to endure. Some of you may be thinking of using an electric space heater to warm your home.

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 home.

Looking for ways to lower your heating bill? Contact Jackson Electric Cooperative and ask about electric heating options and the dual fuel program. ■

Need Electric Service?

If you're planning to build a house or an additional structure on your property and need electric service installed, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to schedule an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. We can also help you with electric heating and cooling options and Energy Star rebates and incentives. ■

Dual Fuel Heating Provides Comfortable Savings

It was last January when frigid temperatures caused a high demand for liquid propane (LP), thus causing a LP shortage that snowballed into high LP prices. Natural gas customers were asked to conserve near the end of the month due to a natural gas explosion in Canada. Jackson Electric Cooperative members were reassured they had reliable electricity at a consistent price to heat their homes and businesses.

As consumers, we are always looking for the best buy or the lowest price. When it comes to heating and cooling your home, you don't have to sacrifice your paycheck for affordable electric heating and cooling. Jackson Electric Cooperative's dual fuel program not only allows you several electric heating options, but also gives those participants a reduced, off-peak electric rate.

What is the Dual Fuel Program?

This program is designed to utilize off-peak rates by adding electric heat to an existing fossil fuel furnace. The rate is at about half of your current electric rate. On this program, you will have two heating sources; the electric heat system will be your

primary source of heat and the fossil fuel furnace your backup system. In addition, two meters will be installed.

With this program, you have the option of switching between electricity and fossil fuels, depending on the cost of each energy product during the heating season. This program is designed to pass savings on to Jackson Electric Cooperative's members.

How Does This Program Work?

Electricity is generated on demand. During periods of low demand, or off-peak hours, there is an excess of generator capacity at the power plant. During these off-peak hours, the cost to generate electricity is reduced. Under the dual fuel program, a radio control switches off the electric heat during high demand, or peak hours, and your backup heat kicks in. The radio control switch is located in your load management receiver box. Electric heat is used only during the off-peak hours, when the electricity costs are low, and those savings are passed on to you in the form of a low, off-peak (dual fuel) electric heating rate.



Why Do I Need Two Meters?

Participation in the dual fuel program requires your electrician to install a dual meter socket, which provides space for a second meter. The second meter, which is the off-peak, dual fuel meter, is billed at a reduced electric rate. During peak demand periods, when energy usage is at its highest, the heating, cooling, and water heating loads on the dual fuel meter are switched off for a period of time.

The first meter, or primary meter, records the usage of your everyday appliances, lights, etc.

What Systems Qualify for the Dual Fuel Rate?

Several energy-efficient heating systems qualify for the dual fuel program, including air source and geothermal heat pumps, boilers, baseboards, and radiant and plenum heaters.

Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling in one unit and have the highest efficiencies available compared to any fuel type. When you factor in a low, off-peak electric rate with the high efficiencies that heat pumps provide, you'll have the lowest possible heating and cooling costs of any fuel type. If you are not in the market for a heat pump but are looking for additional heat elsewhere in your home, shop, or garage, other electric heating options also provide efficiencies that are higher than other fuel sources.

To find out more, go to www.jackelec.com or contact our office. ■

HEATING FUEL COMPARISON

Electric Heat Option	Cost/kWh	LP Gas 92% Efficient	Fuel Oil 80% Efficient	Natural Gas 92 % Efficient
Air Source Heat Pump (250% efficient)	\$0.06	\$0.59/gallon	\$0.78/gallon	\$0.65/therm
Geothermal Heat Pump (400% efficient)	\$0.06	\$0.37/gallon	\$0.49/gallon	\$0.40/therm
Resistance Electric Heat (100% efficient)	\$0.06	\$1.48/gallon	\$1.95/gallon	\$1.62/therm

For example: By participating in Jackson Electric Cooperative's dual fuel program, the dual fuel rate is \$0.06/kWh. At that rate, the cost to heat your home with an air source heat pump is comparable to paying \$0.59/gallon for a 92 percent efficient liquid propane (LP) heating system, \$0.78/gallon for a 80 percent efficient fuel oil system, and \$0.65/therm for a 92 percent efficient natural gas system.

Members Inquire – We Answer.

Member Inquiry: “I don’t understand what the lights mean on my load management receiver. How do I know if I’m being controlled?”

Our Answer: That’s an excellent question and warrants a detailed response. Let’s start with the basics.

What is the Load Management Receiver?

The load management receiver is a radio receiver that is connected to your water heater and/or electric heating/cooling system wiring. Typically, the receiver is installed outside near the meter socket and wired into the breaker box. During peak control periods, or periods of high energy demand, a radio signal from Dairyland Power (our power supplier) switches the water heater and/or electric heat/cooling system off.

The words “switched off” may alarm some members. Please don’t let this discourage you from being part of this program. The majority of members who participate in this program say they don’t notice when their equipment is being controlled. We advise members to purchase a large enough water heater to fulfill their needs during a control period; an automatic backup heating system is required when electric heating systems are being controlled so comfort is not diminished.

Lights on the Load Management Receiver

The lights on the load management receiver will indicate control periods. On each load management receiver is a diagram and summary of the lights. Below left are photos of receiver lights. Compare these photos with your receiver lights. If you’re still unsure of your load control status, feel free to contact our office.

Water heaters are most often controlled for economic purposes. Water heater controlling may occur at any time on any day and is typically limited to six hours. However, if you participate in the dual fuel program, your water heater is controlled daily.

has done so by reducing total demand during peak use hours—generally between 1 and 5 p.m. in the summer and 5 to 9 p.m. in the winter—when people are commonly at home running washers, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners, heaters, and so on.

For example, during the summer months your heat pump might be cycled on and off at 15-minute intervals for a few hours on a day load management was utilized, if you are a program participant. Home comfort is not diminished, but the energy and financial savings aggregated through participation across the Dairyland membership is significant. ■



Why Load Management?

Load management is a tool used to balance the demand for electricity with the ability to generate or economically purchase electricity. Dairyland estimates the load management program reduces its system peak by approximately 70 megawatts (MW) in the summer and 140 MW in the winter... the equivalent size of a small power plant. It



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