



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/
CEO

MEMBER PARTICIPATION IS A BENEFIT OF BELONGING TO A COOPERATIVE



With the start of the new year, we begin to get in district and annual meeting mode. District meetings will be held the early part of February in Districts 1, 6, and 9. The annual meeting is set for March 22 at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls, and all members are invited.

Democratic member control is one of the many benefits of being a member-owner. District meetings are held to vote for your representation on Jackson Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors. Our service territory is split into nine districts. Each district has a director, who is elected by you, the mem-

ber. One member, one vote. This representative is your voice to the cooperative.

While we have you at the district meeting, we have an opportunity to not only introduce ourselves, but to discuss the operations of the cooperative. Typically, the attendance is minimal at these meetings, so the atmosphere is more casual, which makes for more comfortable conversation. If you haven't attended a district meeting in the past, I encourage your attendance.

If you have a meter in the three districts previously listed, you'll be receiving a mailing within the next few weeks notifying you of the date, time, and place of the district meeting. We hope you take the opportunity to participate in these meetings.



100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION AWARDED TO JACKSON ELECTRIC

At a recent meeting, Jackson Electric Cooperative's board president Gary Woods, right, received an ACRE award on behalf of the cooperative for 100 percent board and management participation from Bob Kretschmar, Wisconsin's ACRE chairman.

ACRE, or Action Committee for Rural Electrification, is the federal political action committee of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. ACRE supports candidates for the U.S. House and Senate who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their member-owners. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary.

Jackson Electric Cooperative's entire nine-member board of directors and management team participate in this program.

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

Please contact your high school guidance counselor for more information and scholarship requirements. 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/community/scholarships or from our office.





WATER HEATER PROGRAM CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

At a recent board meeting, Jackson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved the following revisions in the cooperative’s water heater program. The program is reviewed annually, and current federal legislation prompted program revisions. These changes are necessary so that Jackson Electric can continue to provide quality electric water heaters at an affordable price and service to its members. If you have any questions regarding the water heater program, please contact Ron at our office. The following program revisions are effective January 1, 2016:



- 80- and 85-gallon water heaters will no longer be available for purchase from Jackson Electric Cooperative. An 85-gallon Marathon electric water heater can be special ordered to accommodate for space and warranty. The price of an 85-gallon water heater is comparable to a 105-gallon water heater, efficiency rating is nearly the same, and the size is also similar to a 105-gallon water heater. The co-op encourages the purchase of a 105-gallon water heater so the member has enough hot water during a load control period.
- Current electric water heater prices (prices are subject to change):
 - Rheem 50 gallon – \$380 plus tax
 - Marathon 105 gallon – \$1,030 plus tax
 Prices for water heaters have increased for 2016; however, Jackson Electric is offering a rebate that will make the price more affordable.
- A \$400 rebate, at time of purchase from Jackson Electric, is available on a 105-gallon Marathon water heater with the commitment to install a Jackson Electric load management receiver. This rebate (\$200 is paid by Dairyland Power and a portion of the remaining \$200 is paid by Jackson Electric’s Commitment to Community dollars) lowers the cost of a 105 gallon water heater to \$630.
- Electric water heaters 100 gallons or more that are NOT purchased from Jackson Electric must meet a .85+ efficiency requirement to qualify for a \$200 rebate after the installation of a load management receiver.
- Load management receiver must be installed within 45 days of water heater purchase.
- Free parts and service, during work hours*, of electric water heaters are still available to members who participate in the electric water heater program. Repairs after hours and on cooperative-recognized holidays are \$150. *Work hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Members participating in the electric water heater program will no longer receive a \$3 per month credit on their electric bill. This will save the co-op approximately

\$100,000 annually. This savings will allow the co-op to continue the free parts and service attribute to members.

Members who do not participate in the load management program will not receive the rebate nor free parts and service.

Why Purchase a Water Heater from Jackson Electric?

1. Pricing for a water heater, after the rebate is applied, is lower than nationally suggested pricing.
2. Water heater is in stock at Jackson Electric Cooperative.
3. Free parts and service during regular working hours for members who participate in the load management program. This is approximately a \$200 per service call value.

Jackson Electric Sells Quality Water Heaters

Marathon 105-gallon model

- Heavy-duty commercial line of the Marathon brand
- Polyethylene construction resists dents
- Energy factor of .91
- Limited lifetime warranty to the original purchaser with online registration
- Extended life elements for extreme water conditions
- High temperature dip tube
- Brass drain valve

Rheem 50-gallon model

- Steel tank
- Six-year limited tank warranty
- Fits in small areas
- Energy factor of .91
- High efficiency resitorded copper elements
- Anode rod that prolongs the life of the water heater
- Self-cleaning system to avoid sediment build-up
- Brass drain valve

GET ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FROM QUESTLINE

Jackson Electric Cooperative offers a free e-newsletter, Questline, to its members and non-members who are interested in the following information:

- Energy conservation tips and recommendations;
- Non-promotional information and resources that can save you and your household energy and money;
- Access to an easy-to-search “Energy e-Library” filled with valuable resources, tips, and more;
- Access to HVAC, home energy use, and carbon-footprint calculators—providing information to help you benchmark your home’s energy use and identify energy-saving opportunities; and
- Articles on new ideas for conserving water, green initiatives, and the latest energy technologies.

One of the best parts of this service is that it is delivered directly to your email inbox! Go to www.jackelec.com/News/Questline-E-Newsletter to sign up.

RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

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 22, 2016, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

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 12, 2016. 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)

Jackson Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Business meeting at 7 p.m.
Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls

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



Photo courtesy of Lenna White

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving members without power. During cold temperatures, this can be dangerous. We suggest you have a plan in place in the event of a lengthy power outage during extreme weather conditions.

Stay Warm – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane-, or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

Stay Fed – The CDC recommends having handy several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods, and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

Stay Safe – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to 9-1-1 or the power company.—*Source: NRECA Straight Talk*



WINTER ELECTRIC LOADS

By Ron Blado,
Member Services Manager

As the seasons change, so does our home and business electric energy usage. We move from air conditioning and dehumidifier usage during the spring and summer to home heating in the fall and winter. We, as electric energy consumers, expect our electric energy usage to increase due to cold weather. What we don't expect is the increased cost for winter usage. I often hear, "How can my monthly electric bill be so high?"

Portable Electric Space Heaters

I recently read an advertisement stating, "Slash Your Heating Bills," with one of the more popular electric space heaters sold in recent years. The advertisement was promoting the new lower cost of refurbished units. The advertisement continues to claim that homeowners, if they had one of these electric heaters, could avoid high heating bills for the coming winter.

Many of us have seen the advertisements for and have purchased portable electric space heaters. While they satisfy a short-term heating need, they are not considered, by the electric utility, the best choice when it comes to cost, but they may be the only solution to heat an area effectively. The manufacturers claim that the portable electric space heater will reduce a member's heating bill; however, the premise is to move the portable electric space heater from room to room and close off the rest of the house. Because none of us reads the booklet or the fine print, we leave the house thermostat setting alone and add the portable electric space heater to operate in the occupied spaces. The result is added electrical heating cost.

Other Heating Products

Many of our members who live in the rural areas have cattle, horses, or other animals and add electric heat to stock tanks, plug-in car heaters, roof heat tapes, and heat tapes for water supply lines. These are additional electric loads that add

to the cost of a member's bill.

I am not suggesting these devices are not needed. A broken water pipe or a roof ice dam can cause significant damage if left without protection. Cattle and/or horses need as much drinking water in winter as they do in summer, and wages are lost if the car does not start, preventing you from getting to work. My intent is to inform you of the impact of adding electric load.

Take Control of Your Usage

All of our members, if they have the technology available, can access their own usage using Jackson Electric's online bill payment service. Not only can you pay your electric bill online, you can also access your daily electric usage. Contact the office for more details on this service.

Another way to know how much a device will cost is to calculate the usage. All devices sold are required to include information on either wattage or amperage. If we know either of these facts, we can perform the calculation.

Use the following formula to calculate the cost to operate a heating device:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \text{hours of operation} \times \$0.1130 \text{ per kWh} = \text{operating cost of one device}$$

(If watts are not listed on the data tag label, use the formula amps x volts to determine watts.)

For example, if you purchase a 1,500-watt stock heater and operate that unit for eight hours each day for 30 days, you would pay \$40.68 in electric charges for 30 days of use.

Do the same calculation for other devices in your home. The typical portable electric space heater has a setting for 1,500 watts, the same as a stock tank heater. The unknown number is how many hours a day the device is actually using energy. This is something only you know and can control.

The point of this article is to remind us all and make us aware of the impact of a simple device and the affect it has on our monthly electric bills. Portable electric space heaters have their place in our homes, farms, and businesses, but their usage comes associated with a price.



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
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Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Jerry Huber, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel Smrekar, Junior Jacobson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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