

VOLUNTEERS:

The eyes and ears of our community

Spring has finally arrived. The snow has melted, the birds are chirping, and you're looking for excuses to get out of the house. Look no further than your local Department of Health and Human Services. The Jackson County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) seeks volunteer drivers, meal deliverers, tax preparers, and advisory council members to meet the needs of elderly and disabled residents in Jackson County. What starts out as volunteer work can turn into conversations and companionship among volunteers and clients.

Volunteer drivers are a much-needed asset to Jackson County residents. Imagine that you are homebound and do not have any means of transportation available to travel to your medical appointments. Individuals are able to request transportation by calling the ADRC office at least two days in advance. The ADRC then coordinates the transportation with available volunteers. The organization also partners with Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers to meet the needs of those requesting transportation. "In 2018 alone, the ADRC's volunteer drivers drove 40,239 miles and 350 round-trips," shares Lynette Gates, aging and disability services community support coordinator.

The ADRC provides home-delivered meals to residents 60 and older who are

homebound due to health reasons and/or are physically or emotionally unable to travel for a meal with others at one of the meal sites in communities throughout Jackson County. Many community businesses volunteer to deliver these meals. Families even get involved with deliveries on Saturdays. The meals provide one-third of the daily nutritional needs for an older adult. "Last year, these volunteers delivered 29,072 home-delivered meals," adds Lynette.

The volunteer delivering the meal needs to either see or hear the client. The meal is not just left outside the door. "Volunteers are our eyes and ears in the community," shares Pam Johnson, elder benefits specialist.

"Sometimes a volunteer is the only person that the client sees all day." Volunteers get to know the clients, and often know when something doesn't seem right. Volunteers can report concerns to the ADRC staff for follow-up with the client and/or the client's family.

The ADRC also relies on volunteers for the AARP Tax Clinic offered through partnerships with Co-op Credit Union and Jackson Electric. There is training involved with this volunteer position. "Volunteers must go through a three-day course, pass a test, and understand basic taxes," says Pam.

This year, volunteers were available to provide tax services on ten Mondays



Volunteers Mollie Van Wormer and Robert Wood prepare for clients at the AARP Tax Clinic held in Jackson Electric's community room.

from February through April, using Jackson Electric's community room as the meeting site. "I volunteer because I have the desire to help people," shares local coordinator Robert Wood. "I'm retired and have the time available to give back to the community," he adds.

In addition to these volunteer opportunities, citizens can become involved with the advisory council, either as an advisory member or a concerned citizen. Advisory meetings are open to the public. Local volunteer Judy Sheppard became an advisory member in 2014. Through this council, she learned about the programs that the ADRC offers, as well as the areas where help was needed. "I hadn't realized all of the programs that they offer to seniors. It's been a real eye opener to see everything that they do at the Health and Human Services Department."

Judy also volunteers to deliver meals through the ADRC. "I think if you've never volunteered for something, just try it, even if it's just a small amount or once a month," she says. "There's always a need for volunteers, both now and in the future," she concludes.

Those interested in volunteering should contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jackson County's office at 715.284.3978. An application and background check are required prior to volunteering.—Brandi Shramek, Executive Coordinator



The Advisory Board provides insight on programs and services.

Principles of Our Past. Innovation for Our Future.

Jackson Electric Cooperative hosts 82nd Annual Meeting



Gary Woods

“Change can be good and exciting,” shared Gary Woods during his president’s report at Jackson Electric’s Annual Meeting of the Members, held on March 12. “After all, change created Jackson Electric Cooperative.”

Woods went on to describe how Jackson Electric builds upon the cooperative principles of the past with innovation for the future. In 1937, a group of farmers believed in working together to bring electricity to rural areas. The efforts

of these local leaders improved the quality of Jackson County rural life. Jackson Electric will continue to meet the needs of its membership, now and in the future. Today’s lifestyles are filled with conveniences that were never an option in the past. “Your cooperative will continue to strive to improve the quality of life in rural areas,” concluded Woods.

The 232 members and guests attending also learned about the operations of the cooperative. General Manager/CEO Kevin Babcock introduced the board of directors before he discussed safety, radio frequency metering, the updated customer information system conversion, technology, and the 2019 budget. Babcock went on to answer the most popular questions received at the office by members. Included were Digger’s Hotline, donations, financing, the billing date change, and rates and facility charge. Babcock also shared that the cooperative does not anticipate a rate or facility charge increase in 2019. In closing, he added, “I want to thank everyone for their business, comments throughout the year, and continued support of Jackson Electric Cooperative.”

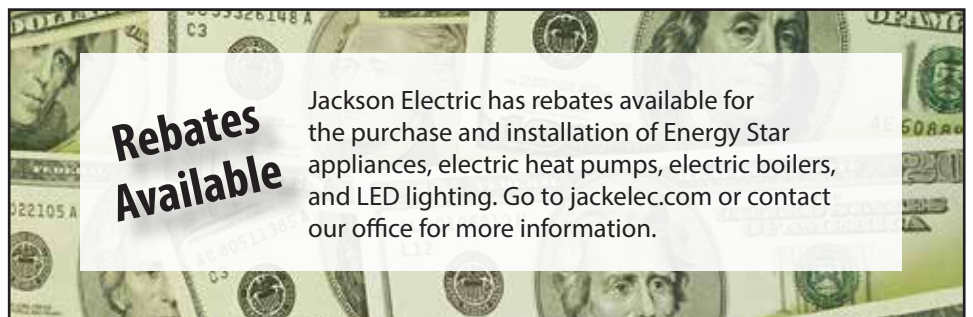
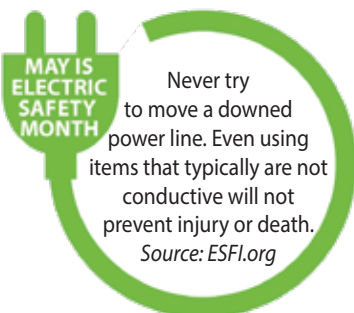
Highlights of the night included the announcement of the Youth Ambassador Scholarship and Mike Anderson Memorial recipients. Youth ambassador participant McKayla Gilbertson, from the Black River Falls School District, was selected as the recipient of the \$1,500 Jackson Electric Youth Ambassador Scholarship. The Youth Ambassador program is open to high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in exploring

their leadership abilities and learning about cooperatives. Participants who are seniors and plan to continue their education are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. The student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) must be active members of the cooperative to qualify.

Bruce’s Legacy was chosen to receive the Mike Anderson \$1,000 memorial. Bruce’s Legacy is a volunteer organization providing emergency assistance, education, public safety awareness, and search and recovery operations for drowning victims to provide resolution for their families. This perpetual memorial was created in honor of longtime Jackson Electric employee and general manager Mike Anderson, who was committed to the seventh cooperative principle, “concern for community.”



Director Jerry Huber (right) presented the Mike Anderson Memorial check to Keith Cormican of Bruce’s Legacy.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS STRIVE FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

“Looking back and reflecting on all of my volunteer experiences, I am confident that donating so much of my time will be a decision that I will never regret,” shared McKayla Gilbertson of the Black River Falls School District in response to this year’s scholarship essay prompt.

This year’s Youth Ambassador scholarship applicants were asked to write an essay in response to how volunteering has impacted them. The students participating in this year’s Youth Ambassador Program volunteered at the local nursing homes, Project Christmas, and Interfaith’s Time for You program. “I have built relationships, gained experience that will help me in my future, learned life lessons, and most importantly gave back to my deserving community,” McKayla wrote.

Each year, Jackson Electric invites up to 15 high school juniors and seniors to join its Youth Ambassador Program.

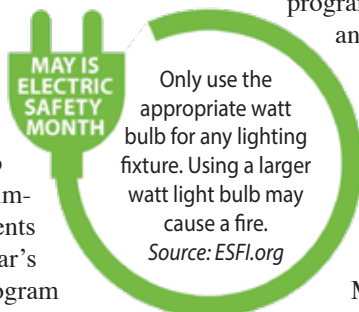
These students have a sincere interest in learning about the cooperative principles and rural area development, and enjoy working with others. These students commit to attend scheduled meetings, tours, and volunteer activities during and outside of school hours. At the end of the program, qualifying seniors have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,500 continuing education scholarship.

McKayla was chosen as the recipient of this year’s scholarship award, presented at Jackson Electric’s annual meeting on March 12. In the fall of 2019, McKayla plans to attend Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire to pursue an associate’s degree in business management. She then plans to transfer to Winona State University and eventually earn her master’s in business administration. “The communication and networking skills I learned in the Youth Ambassador Program will be applied to my future classes/career,” says McKayla. “I would encourage everyone to join



Executive Coordinator Brandi Shramek (left) presented the Youth Ambassador scholarship award to McKayla Gilbertson at the annual meeting.

this program. The leaders and coordinators of the program are in it to benefit you. They provide you with the resources, knowledge, and opportunities to get active in your community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jackson Electric for this great opportunity that I was glad to be a part of,” she concludes.



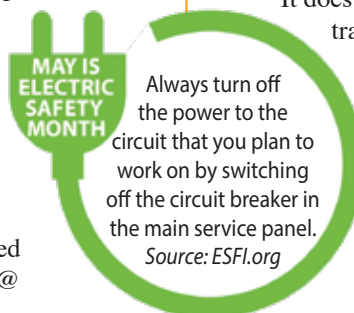
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Jackson Electric sponsors high school students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall to attend the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Leadership Congress. This year’s YLC will be held July 24–26 at the UW-River Falls campus.

Students who are interested in enhancing their leadership skills, meeting new people who may be contacts for future careers, and enjoy learning about the cooperative business structure should plan to attend this conference. Students will participate in team-building activities, listen to highly acclaimed motivational speakers, experience a bit of college living, and have an opportunity to interview and campaign to be part of the Wisconsin Youth Board.

Those students attending the YLC have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.

Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by Jackson Electric. Contact Brandi at bshramek@jackelec.com by June 14 to register for this event.



SALES TAX ON SUMMER ELECTRIC BILLS

A sales tax will be applied to your electric bill for electric usage in the months of May through October. According to Wisconsin Statute 77.54 (3) (a) 2, “Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March, and April for residential use” are exempt from sales and use tax. This statute was enacted in 1995.

The state government regards electricity for residential use during the winter months as a necessity; therefore, it is exempt from sales tax during these months. “Residential use” is defined in the statute as a structure or portion of a structure which is a person’s permanent principle residence.

It does not include use in motor homes, travel trailers, other recreational vehicles, or transient accommodations.

If you feel your farming operation or business meets year-round tax exemption status, please confirm you have a completed and signed Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate on file at Jackson Electric’s office. Forms are available from our office or at jackelec.com/My Account/Tax Exempt.



JACKSON ELECTRIC PAYMENT DUE DATES

Please Note: Two billing statements are due in May.

Bills that were mailed on April 11 are due on May 1, 2019. This is billing for March usage.

- May 1:** Recurring credit card payments will be withdrawn
- May 5:** Recurring bank draft payments will be withdrawn
- May 13:** Late fees will be applied

April usage bills will be mailed on May 6, 2019. Payment due dates are:

- May 24:** May billing statement is due
- May 24:** Recurring credit card payments will be withdrawn
- May 24:** Recurring bank draft payments will be withdrawn
- May 28:** Late fees will be applied

MAY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Bills will continue to be mailed on the 6th day of the month. Payment will be due on the 24th day of the month. Late fees will be applied on the 25th day of the month. Late fee is \$25 or 1.5 percent, whichever is greater.



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