



Watt's Going On

Greg McFarland,
General Manager/CEO

I'm writing this column near the end of March and there is still plenty of snow covering the ground! I hope by the time you read this column, the snow is gone and May flowers are beginning to bloom.

As you sit down to read this issue, I will be arriving in Wisconsin from a trip to Washington, D.C., where I, along with several other electric cooperative general managers and directors, met with our state's congressional representative and senators. Organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), this legislative conference is designed to bring grassroots advocates together to discuss electric industry issues. Issues include rural broadband, cyber security, environmental issues, and the ongoing fiscal fight.

Following briefings of the issues, we have an opportunity to meet with staff of Congressman Ron Kind and Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson. This is our opportunity to educate staff members on the consumers who make up the local electric cooperative. Discussion includes the impact rural communities have on the nation's economy and the significance of member-ownership. We talk about you—the member—because you are their constituents.

Sometimes in the political realm, it is easy to forget where you come from. As electric cooperatives, we need to continue to remind our congressional representative and senators why we exist so that we can continue to provide reliable and competitively priced electric service to our members.

Evergreen Program

Thank you to everyone who brought unwanted and old electronics and white goods to the recycling drive in April. By responsible recycling, you are doing your part in reducing the negative impact e-waste could have on landfills and the environment.

When you dropped off your recycling items, you should have received some literature regarding our Evergreen Program. By voluntarily enrolling in this program, you are supporting renewable energy generation. Not

everyone is financially able to construct a windmill or install solar panels; the Evergreen Program makes renewable energy generation affordable for everyone!

You can participate in the Evergreen Program by purchasing one block or several blocks of renewable energy. One block of renewable energy is 100 kWh and represents about 10 percent of the average residential monthly electrical usage. One block of renewable energy will cost you \$1.50/month; two blocks \$3.00/month, and so forth. This is an additional charge on your monthly electric bill.

To learn more about the Evergreen Program, contact our office or download an application form at www.jackson-electric.com/energy_conservation/evergreen_program.

One More Item...

Spring is a busy time of year for us. We continue to do right-of-way maintenance in the Shantytown Substation area (Cataract to Mindoro) and our line construction project continues in Northfield. If you see our crews or our contractor's crews, please slow down and allow them room to work as you pass them by.

Safety always! ■

Jackson Electric Cooperative Receives Special Refund in Nuclear Waste Settlement

Jackson Electric Cooperative received a special refund of \$588,897.99 from Dairyland Power Cooperative as result of a recent damage award for a breach of contract lawsuit against the U.S. government. The settlement is a result of the government's failure to collect and store nuclear waste from Dairyland's shutdown nuclear power plant, called the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR), located at Genoa.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 gave the government responsibility for storage of the nation's spent nuclear fuel, with a deadline of January 31, 1998, to begin accepting the fuel. The government has been collecting money from Dairyland ratepayers for that purpose. Dairyland returned money to Jackson Electric Cooperative and 24 other member electric cooperatives, based upon costs incurred for handling the nuclear waste from 1999–2006. At the March reorganization meeting, Jackson Electric Cooperative's board of directors approved distributing this special refund to qualified members. ■

Jackson Electric Cooperative Holds 76th Annual Meeting

Following the performance from the Black River Falls High School Jazz Band, Jackson Electric Cooperative's Board President Gary Woods welcomed members to the 76th annual meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

The Youth Ambassador scholarship was presented to Bryce Kopp, son of Paul and Cindy Kopp of Black River Falls. Bryce is a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program and plans to attend Southwest Wisconsin Technical College for Electric Power Distribution in the fall.

President Woods spoke about the importance and value of membership in Jackson Electric Cooperative. He highlighted that Jackson Electric Cooperative is member-owned and that cooperative electric service exists to raise the quality of life in our communities, not to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. He elaborated



Bryce Kopp, left, receives the Youth Ambassador scholarship from Jackson Electric Cooperative's General Manager/CEO Greg McFarland.

Shirley Halonen of Melrose was the lucky winner of the big-screen TV at the Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.



Generator Safety Awareness

If you use a back-up generator when electric service is interrupted, make sure you know how to operate it safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors, and even the linemen working to restore power.

- Temporary-use generators should not be connected to the circuit breaker or fuse box or plugged into a household outlet. Portable generators should only be used with extension cords to power lights and small appliances.
- Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer switch that prevents potentially deadly backfeed.
- Generators should only be operated outside to prevent toxic and potentially deadly exhaust from entering a home. Keep them away from children and pets.
- When starting a generator, disconnect all appliances that might be connected to it to protect the appliances and prevent a fuse from being blown on the generator.
- Connect appliances to portable generators after they have been started. Use only three-prong plugs that allow connections to be grounded.
- When refueling generators, allow the engine to cool to prevent a fire should the gas tank overflow.
- Use a heavy-duty extension cord rated for the wattage of the load being connected.
- When the generator is no longer needed, allow it to cool down before storing it. ■

on community involvement and energy efficiency efforts supported by Jackson Electric Cooperative.

General Manager/CEO Greg McFarland introduced the board of directors. He continued with an interactive presentation in which members were asked several questions regarding their knowledge and interest in Jackson Electric Cooperative as well as the energy industry. Results were tabulated using a digital response system.

Directors were ratified at the meeting. They were Stan Gran, District 1; Roger Hansen, District 6; and Gary Woods, District 9.

Bylaw amendments were approved as presented.

Attorney Paul Bohac announced his retirement from his law practice. He offered legal services to Jackson Electric Cooperative for 12 years. The cooperative wishes him an enjoyable and healthy retirement.

A big-screen TV was won by Shirley Halonen of Melrose and \$100 cash prizes were won by James Arena, Claire Bahnub, Harlan Brandt, Freddie Dolesy, Donald Harlicek, Nancy Hutchens, J Land Farms, Virgil Kaas, David Krause, Stephen Marasek, Rhande Murray, Frederick Myskewitz, Rebecca Olson-White, Brian Peterson, and James Spielbauer.

Two-hundred fifty-four people were present for the meeting.

Following the meeting, the board of directors elected Gary Woods, president and Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) director; Jerry Huber, vice president and DPC alternate director; and Dave Peasley, secretary/treasurer. ■

JEC Youth Ambassadors Selected to Attend Youth Tour

MacKenzie Hoeschele, daughter of Steve and Tracy Hoeschele, and Beth Pfaff, daughter of Danette VanAuken and Ed Pfaff, each of Black River Falls, will attend the Electric Youth Tour June 14–20 in Washington, D.C., as representatives of Jackson Electric Cooperative.

MacKenzie and Beth, along with about 1,500 other high school students from across the country, will have an opportunity to meet with their representatives on Capitol Hill, learn more about the role electric cooperatives have in the national economy, enhance their leadership skills, and visit the many historic sites in Washington, D.C.

Both girls participate in Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program. To apply to attend this leadership conference, MacKenzie and Beth submitted a mock letter to either their state or federal representative describing the importance of electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, specifically Jackson County.

MacKenzie states in her letter, "Jackson Electric makes sure that in our busy lives, we don't have to

worry about our electrical power at home—something that is very important to us."

Beth describes in her letter to Senator Ron Johnson the importance of cooperatives in regards to job creation, democratic member control, and the significant role of local cooperatives in Black River Falls.

To learn how your high school junior or senior can participate in Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program, go to www.jackelec.com or contact our office. ■



MacKenzie Hoeschele, left, and Beth Pfaff, both of Black River Falls, will represent Jackson Electric Cooperative at the Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Area Youth Leaders Wanted!

Youth Leadership Congress July 10–12

High school students from across Wisconsin will gather at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls July 10–12 for the 50th annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC). This leadership conference is sponsored by Wisconsin electric cooperatives, including Jackson Electric Cooperative.

Students will participate in team-building activities, learn about coop-



erative principles, and have an opportunity to interview and campaign to be part of the Youth Board. All sessions are designed to develop the next generation of community leaders.

Jackson Electric Cooperative is once again sponsoring high school students who will be a sophomore, junior or senior in the fall to attend this event. Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by Jackson Electric Cooperative. If you're interested in attending the Congress, please contact Carol at cblaken@jackelec.com by May 31, 2013. For more information on YLC, go to www.jackelec.com. ■

Contact Us for New Residential Electric Service

If you're planning to construct a new building and need electric service, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to make an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. To learn more about new residential electric service, go to www.jackelec.com/electric_system/new_residential_construction.



Ask Your Cooperative **Steve Meyer, Member Services Director**



Q: During the spring, my basement sometimes gets damp. My friends tell me to buy a dehumidifier. Do you have rebates for dehumidifiers, and how much electrical usage can I expect it to use?

A: Dehumidifiers use a refrigeration compressor similar to what you would find in a refrigerator to remove humidity from the air. A dehumidifier operating in a humid basement will run nearly non-stop. Energy wise, this is like leaving your refrigerator door wide open continuously. Are dehumidifiers costly to operate? They sure are! It is common to see an electric bill

increase of \$20 to \$50/month when a dehumidifier is operating. To keep energy bills to a minimum, don't over-dehumidify.

Energy Star rated dehumidifiers use less energy than standard models. Jackson Electric pays a \$25 rebate for the purchase of an Energy Star dehumidifier. Simply fill out a rebate form available at www.jackelec.com/programs/rebates_and_incentives or at our office and include your sales receipt.

If you have a central air conditioner, or better yet, a heat pump, you'll get both cooling and dehumidification from the central air or heat pump unit.

The central system won't completely dehumidify your basement, but it will reduce the moisture level throughout the house, so you won't need to run the dehumidifier as much. Running the central air or heat pump to cool and dehumidify in one operation is a much better value than running the dehumidifier alone.

If you have a question to ask Jackson Electric Cooperative, please submit it to our office at P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615, or e-mail cblaken@jackelec.com, and put in the subject line "Magazine Question." ■

Electric Heat Spotlight—Air Source Heat Pump

One of the most efficient ways to heat and cool your home.

An air source heat pump extracts heat from the outside air to heat your home. When properly installed, it can deliver two to four times more heat energy than the electrical energy it consumes, making it very efficient and economical to operate.

During the summer, an air source heat pump cools your home like a central air conditioning unit. During the cooler months, it also provides heat. When outdoor temperatures drop below freezing, most heat pumps



have a balance point where supplemental heat kicks in to maintain the thermostat setting in your home. An air source heat pump, when installed with a non-electric backup furnace, qualify for the dual fuel electric rate.

You will notice how much the air source heat pump resembles an air conditioning unit. Even though they are similar in appearance, an air source heat pump, on the dual fuel electric rate, will save you money in your heating and cooling expenses.

Cost Comparison: Air Source vs. Fossil Fuels

Air Source System (375% efficient)	Propane Furnace (92% efficient)	Fuel Oil Furnace (70% efficient)	Natural Gas Furnace (92% efficient)
\$0.06/kWh	\$0.39/gallon	\$0.46/gallon	\$0.43/therm

For example: By participating in Jackson Electric Cooperative's dual fuel program, the dual fuel rate is \$0.06 per kWh. That is comparable to paying \$0.39/gallon for a 92% efficient propane heating system, \$0.46/gallon for a 70% efficient fuel oil furnace, and \$0.43/therm for a 92% efficient natural gas furnace.

Office Closed

Our office will be closed Monday, May 27, so that we may honor those who fought for our freedom. If you experience an outage during this time, please contact our toll-free outage-only number, (855) 222-DARK (3275).



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