



Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 22, No. 1

January 2012

District Meetings Scheduled

Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

Jackson Electric Cooperative is divided into nine director districts and 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 one director is elected at each district meeting. The newly elected directors begin their terms after ratification at the annual meeting.

This year's district meetings will be held on the following dates and locations. All meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

- District 4 (Towns of Hixton, Springfield, and Albion (north of Cty. Rd. P) – Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at Taylor Village Hall; incumbent is Chris Curran.
- District 7 (Towns of Irving and Manchester) – Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at the Irving Town Hall; incumbent is Brian Huber.
- District 5 (Town of Adams) – Thursday, February 2, 2012, at Jackson Electric Cooperative; incumbent is Dave Peasley.

Obligations of the Board of Directors

The board of directors provide 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 board of directors:

- Ensure that the operations are consistent with the articles and bylaws, understand 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.

If you are unsure what district you are in, go to www.jackelec.com and view the directors' map or contact our office.

GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

This year we will be celebrating 75 years of service to our members. In 1937 Jackson Electric received approval from the Rural Electrification Coordination Office after submitting 829 names of members with 273 miles of overhead line. Today, we serve more than 6,000 members with 1,400 miles of underground and overhead lines. Our growth continues, but our focus will remain on the benefits for our members.



This year will be challenging. We are confronted with regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency which will increase your electric rates. At last month's board meeting, the board of directors approved a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) increase from 6 mills to 9.5 mills. This PCA will remain in effect, beginning with your January usage, until a rate study can be completed. From this study we will determine what rate adjustment will be needed.

As of this writing, we are still unsure what our wholesale power cost will be. The way our power supplier purchases power has changed; and the ever-changing environmental regulations have us mulling with uncertainty. We are learning to adjust the way we do business while keeping the members' best interest at the forefront.

Maintaining reliability and affordability doesn't come without challenges; and we will continue to work for you.

Safety always,

Mark Your Calendar!

**Jackson Electric Cooperative's
75th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, March 29, 2012

**7 p.m. – Lunda Theatre
Black River Falls**

*Special 75th anniversary
commemorate gift will be
given to each member in
attendance.*



District 4
Incumbent
Chris Curran



District 5
Incumbent
Dave Peasley



District 7
Incumbent
Brian Huber

Scholarship Available to Graduating High School Seniors

Jackson Electric Cooperative is once again offering a \$750 scholarship to each of the following school districts:

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

You must be a graduating high school senior planning to continue your education and your parents or guardians are active members of Jackson Electric Cooperative. Applications are available from your high school guidance counselor.

Other Youth Scholarship Available

Any high school senior who is home-schooled, enrolled in a private school, or open enrolled at a school other than listed above are also eligible for a \$750 scholarship. Graduating seniors must be planning to continue their education and parents or guardians must be active members of Jackson Electric Cooperative. A completed application form and 500-word essay must be received at Jackson Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarships, by March 15, 2012. Application and essay question can be downloaded at www.jackelec.com or by contacting our office.



Payment Reminder

Your Jackson Electric Cooperative payment is due on the first day of the month. If we receive your payment after the 10th day of the month, your account will be assessed a \$15 late charge.

There are several payment options available to our members:

- Secure drop box located near the entrance of our office building, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Secure on-line payments at www.jackelec.com
- Direct Payment Plan from an account approved by you
- United States Postal Service (signed check with sufficient amount of funds in the account must be in our office by the 10th day of the month to avoid a late charge)
- By phone with credit or debit card
- In person

On-Line Payments Made Easier

To better serve our members who use our secure on-line billing system to pay their electric bills, enhancements will soon be made to the system. The following payment conveniences will be added:

- Ability to select payment dates;
- Have multiple credit cards on file; and
- Ability to manage credit card information easier.

Contact Information Correct?

Please update your phone numbers and/or email address. We need your current contact information so that we can keep you informed about planned outages in your area and other services provided by the cooperative. We do not give your contact information to other organizations for solicitation purposes.

Holiday Lighting Display Winners

Thank you to all members who participated in the holiday lighting display contest. The winning displays were:

1st prize (\$75 energy credit) – Judy Puffer, Millston

2nd prize (\$50 energy credit) – Frank Laufenberg, Alma Center

3rd prize (\$25 energy credit) – Anita Scholze, Melrose

JEC Supports Project Christmas



Jackson Electric Cooperative employees and their family members helped wrap presents for Project Christmas on December 15. Those participating were, left to right, Denise, Jeff, finance manager, and Chuck Cook; Pam Bjerke, receptionist/member services assistant; and Jerel Gunning, accountant. Employees also raised \$80 through ice cream bar sales to donate to Project Christmas.



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

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

