

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2023



JACKSON ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Generations of Resilience



Jackson Electric Cooperative
86th Annual Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.

**BRING THIS MAGAZINE
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT**



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RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

These rules are set in accordance with Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article II, Section 7.

Annual Meeting Rules

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 3, 2023. 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

Voting may be by voice vote (one vote per membership)

THIS MAGAZINE COULD BE A WINNER!

Bring it for a chance to win a
\$50 energy credit.

To avoid additional annual meeting expense, we will not be printing extra annual meeting reports to have available at the meeting. We ask that you bring this magazine with you to the meeting so that you can follow the agenda on page 15.



CALL AND NOTICE

of Annual Meeting of the Jackson Electric Cooperative, Black River Falls, Wis.

As president of the Jackson Electric Cooperative (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"), I do hereby call and give notice of the Annual Meeting of the members of the Cooperative for the year 2022 to be held at the Lunda Theatre in the City of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on Monday, April 24, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of acting upon the following matters:

1. Reading of the unapproved minutes of the 2022 meeting of the members of the Cooperative and the taking of necessary action thereon.
2. Presentation of reports of directors and committees.
3. Ratification of the report of the 2023 District Elections.
4. Such other further business as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated on this 31st day of March, 2023.

Gary J. Woods
Gary Woods

AGENDA

Jackson Electric Cooperative
86th Annual Meeting of the Members
April 24 • 7:00 p.m.
Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order	Gary Woods, President
Pledge of Allegiance	All Members
Welcome.....	Gary Woods, President
Youth Ambassador Scholarship Award	
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	David Peasley, Secretary
Establish a Quorum	David Peasley, Secretary
Reading of 2022 Meeting Minutes.....	David Peasley, Secretary
President's Report	Gary Woods
Redistricting Report	Dan Smrekar, Director
Audit Report.....	CarlsonSV
Mike Anderson Memorial.....	Kristi Hanson, Director
General Manager/CEO Report.....	Kevin Babcock
Ratification of Directors	Legal Counsel

Elected Directors to be Ratified:

District 2.....	Kristi Hanson
District 3.....	Jerry Huber
District 8.....	Dan Smrekar

Old Business	Gary Woods, President
New Business.....	Gary Woods, President

Question & Answer Session

Adjournment
Prize Drawings

\$10 energy credit for every registered membership in attendance

Bring this issue of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News to be entered for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit!

DOOR PRIZES

15 - \$100 cash prizes





BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GENERATIONS OF RESILIENCE

Gary Woods, Board President

Overcoming challenges and adapting to change are nothing new to Jackson Electric Cooperative or the energy industry. In the 1930s, rural America was challenged with the need and desire for electricity. The investor-owned, big corporate utilities turned away from rural America and built service lines where they could receive the most profit. Cities flourished economically, while rural America remained in the dark until President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Executive Order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. Funding was then available to electric cooperatives to construct service lines to the left-behind rural communities.

Rural America began to prosper. Farmers sought out ways to increase their production, and in turn raise profits. More families started to build homes and businesses and rural areas began to boom. Adapting to change and being resilient in one of the most unpredictable periods of time, electric cooperatives provided new opportunities for rural America.

We are not immune to unprecedented change. Jackson Electric was incorporated in 1937 knowing that unforeseen and predictable crises lie ahead. Resiliency has guided Jackson Electric through the generations, and it remains necessary in this ever-changing society and industry.

Pressure will increase on member-consumer energy rates as the cost for wholesale power will continue to climb. The demand for electricity continues to grow, while capacity is on a decline. The shutdown of coal-generated power plants and the operation of renewable energy has caused the price of energy to increase, which will be passed on to the end-user.

We will need financial resilience to protect against the loss of kilowatt hour sales due to energy efficiency requirements, small-scale renewable energy resources interconnecting with our service lines, and the lack of residential and business development. Even though we adhere to the cooperative business model, principles, and values, we still need revenue to operate.

Technology has increased the availability of data, different options to connect, and the speed at which some decisions are made. It has increased the fear of security breaches and consequences, a higher chance of equipment failure, and the pace at which a company's reputation can quickly change.

We must be resilient to the technological needs to manage cyber threats, to avoid breakdowns, and to ensure policies and procedures are in place to protect members' privacy. In addition, social media platforms are used to meet the communication needs of our members by providing well informed and accurate information.

While there has been some improvement in the production of materials, there are still lengthy lead times on certain items. However, we must remain resilient with the supply and delivery of materials and equipment. We work closely with a shared group of neighboring electric cooperatives to ensure backup materials and equipment are available in an emergency.

Storms are unpredictable. The December 2022 snowstorm left more than three-quarters of Jackson Electric's membership to maneuver life without power, some for several days. This is the first time Jackson Electric members experienced this length of a power outage during the winter months. Will we

Resilience is embedded in the way we work and live. It makes us better in normal times, and challenges us in times of disruption.

experience more events similar to this? We don't know, but we all need to be prepared if this does happen again.

Resilience is about anticipating future scenarios and how we need to respond to disruptions. Generations of resilience have been tested at Jackson Electric. In 1936,

the request to serve rural Jackson County was denied because the farms were too scattered to make a workable project. The goal was three farms per mile. Rural residents did not give up. They were resilient and continued the fight to electrify rural Jackson County for the sake of their future generations.

On the cover of this report are some of Jackson Electric's families. The black and white image is of our employees' children in 2019. You can see how our Jackson Electric family has grown over the past four years and will continue to grow. Resilience won't stop with this generation. Resilience is embedded in the way we work and live. It makes us better in normal times, and challenges us in times of disruption.

The future is uncertain, and change comes quickly. We must be able to withstand unanticipated change. We must be resilient.

We look forward to seeing you at Jackson Electric's 86th annual meeting. Bring your family so they can learn more about Jackson Electric and what challenges lie ahead for our future generations.

Gary Woods
Board President



85TH ANNUAL MEETING OF JACKSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

April 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

1. The 85th Annual Meeting of Jackson Electric Cooperative was held at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on April 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. President Gary Woods called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Jerry Huber, Dave Peasley, Dan Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Jerry Wagner, Chris Curran, Brian Huber, and Stan Gran. Jessica Shrestha, legal counsel, and Abby Williamson, auditor from CarlsonSV, were also present.
2. President Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Gary Woods welcomed all in attendance. He stated that the annual meeting rules were published in the April issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and the meeting will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised edition.
4. Member Relations Advisor Brandi Shramek presented the Youth Ambassador Scholarship to Brooke Peterson, daughter of Cory and Kari Peterson of Black River Falls, and Ella Fry, daughter of Christopher and Kristine Fry of Mindoro.
5. The reading of the Call and Notice of Meeting was conducted by Secretary David Peasley. It was announced a quorum was present and the meeting would proceed.
6. Due to the lack of a quorum last year, action was requested on the meeting minutes from both the 83rd and 84th annual meetings. Motion was made and seconded that Secretary David Peasley dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 83rd and 84th annual meetings and that the minutes be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.
7. President Woods stated that businesses continue to financially struggle due to the 2020 shutdown. Sixty percent of Jackson Electric's distribution system is commercial load and Jackson Electric was impacted due to the lack of kilowatt-hour sales. He also stated that 68 cents of the members' every dollar pays Dairyland Power and the remaining stays local to provide power to members. However, financial strategies have been put in place for the future and even with the increase in wholesale power costs, Jackson Electric has been able to stabilize its retail energy rates. He briefly touched on the commercial solar sites that were constructed. He also thanked the membership for their loyalty and ensured that Jackson Electric's board, management, and employees are committed to serving its membership.
8. Legal counsel Jessica Shrestha presented proposed amendments to the bylaws as presented in the notice of meeting published in the April 2022 *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and responded to a member question regarding the same. A motion was duly made and seconded to adopt the proposed bylaw amendments. Motion carried.
9. The Redistricting Report was presented by Director Dan Smrekar. He noted that all districts have approximately equal representation.
10. The Audit Report was presented by Abby Williamson of CarlsonSV.
11. Director Dave Peasley presented the \$1,000 perpetual Mike Anderson Memorial to Black River Area Foster Closet.
12. Following the introduction of the board of directors, General Manager/CEO Kevin Babcock highlighted some of the operations of the Cooperative. He briefly discussed new technologies the Cooperative is embracing and financial strategies with CFC. He continued discussing the commercial solar systems and the limit the Cooperative can purchase under the wholesale power contract. He noted that renewables are a piece of the energy resource puzzle. He went on to state that Jackson Electric made the financial decision to purchase the substations from Dairyland Power Cooperative and stressed the importance of safety in the industry. Babcock went on to answer the most popular questions received at the office by members including questions regarding right-of-way clearing, late fees, the facility charge, contracted work, and the number of new homes on the system. He also shared that the Cooperative does not anticipate an energy rate increase in 2022.
13. President Gary Woods recognized outgoing District 1 Director Stan Gran and District 6 Director Jerry Wagner for their service on the board.
14. On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried the following Resolution was approved, ratifying the director elections held for Districts 4, 5, and 7 for year 2021 and Districts 1, 6, and 9 for year 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the election of Chris Curran as Director for District No. Four (4) on June 22, 2021, for a three-year term; the election of David Peasley as Director for District No. Five (5) on June 22, 2021, for a three-year term; and the election of Brian Huber as Director for District No. Seven (7) on June 22, 2022, for a three-year term; be and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed; and

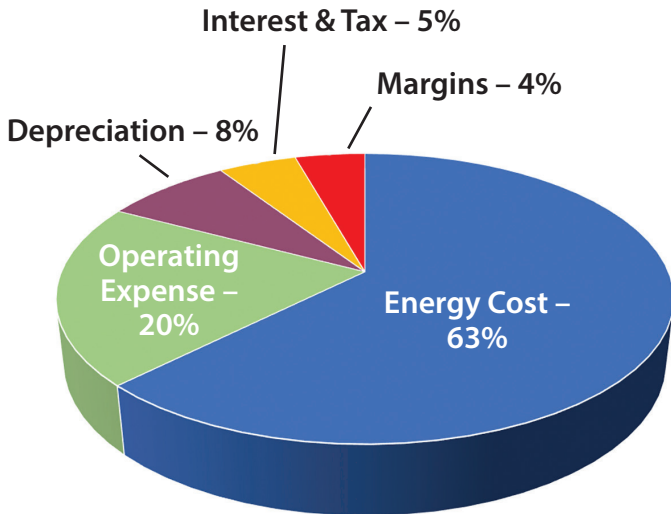
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the election of Les Dokkestul as Director for District No. One (1) on February 9, 2022, for a three-year term; the election of Troy Torkelson as Director for District No. Six (6) on February 8, 2022, for a three-year term; and the election of Gary Woods as Director for District No. Nine (9) on February 7, 2022, for a three-year term; be and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed.
15. Old Business – none.
16. New Business – none.
17. One member asked a question about electric vehicle chargers and another member asked for more information on Dairyland Power's exploration into nuclear technology.
18. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. without objection.
19. A \$50 energy credit was won by Adam Young of Merrilan. Fifteen members won \$100 cash prizes. Each registered membership in attendance was given a \$10 energy credit to be applied on their next billing statement.
20. There were 105 registered members in attendance at the meeting. Total attendance was 151.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Peasley, Secretary

2022 EXPENSES

How a Dollar Was Spent



Energy cost is payment for wholesale energy. Dairyland Power provides wholesale electric service to 17 municipal utilities and 24 distribution cooperatives, to include Jackson Electric Cooperative.

Jackson Electric does not generate electricity. Dairyland Power generates and/or buys electricity from the energy markets and Jackson Electric distributes it to its members.

2022 financial records are unaudited

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Operations Dec. 31, 2022

Operating Revenue	
Electric Energy Sales	\$ 23,757,512
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 23,757,512

Operating Expenses

Cost of Power.....	\$ 14,853,102
Distribution Expense – Operations.....	1,171,027
Distribution Expense – Maintenance.....	1,323,737
Consumer Accounts.....	420,156
Customer Service and Informational.....	242,654
Administrative & General Expense.....	1,678,911
Depreciation Expense.....	1,893,370
Tax Expense.....	275,838
Interest on Long-Term Debt (CFC).....	884,648
Other.....	3,449
Total Cost of Electric Service.....	\$ 22,746,892

Operating Margins.....	\$ 1,010,620
Non-Operating Margins.....	660,705
DPC and Other Capital Credits.....	694,715
Net Margins.....	\$ 2,366,040

Balance Sheet Dec. 31, 2022

Assets

Net Utility Plant.....	\$ 32,107,384
Long-Term Investments.....	11,408,755
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	3,234,973
Accounts Receivable.....	973,088
Materials & Prepayments.....	445,266
Other Assets & Deferred Debits.....	2,684,412
Total Assets.....	\$ 50,853,878

Liabilities & Equity

Patronage Capital and Other Equities.....	\$ 22,868,848
Consumer Deposits.....	2,450
Long-Term Debt.....	22,040,890
Accounts Payable.....	1,777,407
Other Current Liabilities and Deferred Credits.....	4,164,283
Total Liabilities & Equity.....	\$ 50,853,878



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 844.759.3984
www.jackelec.com



Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Dan Smrekar, Krisi Hanson, Brian Huber,
Troy Torkelson, Les Dokkestul
Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Left: Jackson Electric's crew completed the 12-mile line rebuild from Shamrock to Shantytown Substations. To increase reliability, both substations are interconnected, which will allow the ability to back feed power from either substation.



Above: Animal guards are installed on substation equipment to aid in the prevention of outages.



Right: Jackson Electric's line crew, along with assistance from neighboring electric cooperatives' crews, spent many days and hours restoring power to members after the December 2022 snowstorm.



Left: Town of Brockway board of directors officially cut the ribbon for the two commercially sized electric vehicle car chargers at the Black River Oasis.



Above: The annual member picnic was held at Jackson Electric's warehouse. Several families enjoyed grilled brats and hot dogs.



Above: Jackson Electric held an Easter egg hunt for employees' and directors' families.

Right: Electric vehicle owners can charge their vehicles at Wazee Lake while enjoying some of Jackson County's beauty.



Left: A new box was constructed and mounted for our area Ospreys to nest in at Hatfield.

Right: CPR/AED/First Aid training is held every two years for Jackson Electric's employees to become certified. This is a requirement for the line crew, but several office employees take part in the training.



A SNAPSHOT OF 2022



Right: Line crew demonstrates the dangers of electricity to the Black River Falls FFA Food for America fourth-grade students



Above: Black River Falls High School sustainability class learns about renewable energy.



Above: Jackson Electric's youth ambassadors got an up-close and personal look at cranberry harvest.



Right: Jackson Electric's winner of the safety poster contest.



Above: Jackson Electric and JacksonSolar donate a solar system to each the Melrose-Mindoro High School and Merrilan Elementary. These systems will be used to teach students about solar energy production.

Below: In December, Jackson Electric donates poinsettias to area care facilities for the residents to enjoy during the holiday season.



DIRECTORS

President Gary WoodsDistrict 9
 Vice President Chris Curran.....District 4
 Secretary/Treasurer David Peasley.....District 5
 DPC Representative Jerry HuberDistrict 3

Les Dokkestul..... District 1
 Kristi Hanson District 2
 Troy Torkelson..... District 6
 Brian Huber..... District 7
 Daniel Smrekar District 8

STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

Kevin Babcock – General Manager/CEO
 Carol Blaken – Member Relations Manager
 Eric Steien – Line Superintendent
 Dody Wubker – Chief Financial Officer

Matt Bush	Tanner Klobucher	Brandi Shramek
Don Fortun, Jr.	Maggie Mickelson	Grant Witcraft
Jerel Gunning	Deanna Oliver	Adam Wiedl
Jesse Hansen	Spencer Paulson	Hazy Wood
Reed Holliday	Brian Schultz	

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide safe, reliable power for all generations.

OUR PLEDGE IS TO:

Encourage the wise use of our energy resources

Perform our work in a manner that is environmentally and socially acceptable

Reference “The Seven Cooperative Principles” as our guide to do our business

Operate our business in a financially sound manner

Hold ourselves accountable to the highest standard for employee and public safety and security

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



1
Voluntary and Open Membership



2
Democratic Member Control



3
Member Economic Participation



4
Autonomy and Independence



5
Education, Training and Information



6
Cooperation Among Cooperatives



7
Concern for Community