

LIFE IS BETTER WITH DOGS

Jackson Electric member turns passion for dogs into a career

“If you enjoy what you do, everything else will fall in line,” says Jackson Electric member Brilynn Bacino. At a young age, Brilynn developed a passion for working with dogs, which was largely shaped by her participation in the Jackson County 4-H Dog Project. From 9 to 19 years old, Brilynn showed dogs at the Jackson County Fair until aging out of the 4-H program. “Participating in the dog project was the best part of summer, and I knew then that I wanted a career working with dogs,” she says.

Brilynn returned to the dog project for two years to continue her passion by mentoring youth in the program. “I stepped down from the program to dedicate time to building my business,” she says.

At just 21 years old, Brilynn embraced the opportunity to turn her passion for dogs into a career early on in her adult life. She started a part-time training and grooming business out of her home. The clientele grew quickly, and she saw the potential and need for a full-time service in Jackson County. “In 2018, I officially established my business, Courteous Canine, LLC. I started out with grooming and training in our original shop near the dam on North Roosevelt Street in Black River Falls,” she says.

Business grew quickly within the first year alone, which Brilynn attributes to the relationships she built through her participation in 4-H and word-of-mouth from other clients.



This canine was all smiles as Brilynn finished up his groom.

She was able to add on new groomers to assist her in the first year’s growth. “By the end of year three, we had outgrown the original space,” she says.

The original goal was to build a facility once the business was established. When Brilynn entertained the opportunity to tour Courteous Canine’s current location on 2nd Street in Brockway, she immediately saw the facility’s potential for her to expand and provide the services that clients were asking for. “People were asking about doggie daycare, and that’s a service we now provide in our new space,” she explains. “I’m also able to host larger group training classes and events, and the front of the shop provides a retail space with products from area vendors.”

If you’re an aspiring entrepreneur, Brilynn sheds light on the process and her personal experience. First, she recommends finding a mentor, such as someone who has already gone through the process or understands how to start an LLC, obtaining insurance, and acquiring certifications. “Fortunately, my mom is well-versed in these areas and was able to guide me through the process,” shares Brilynn. “There are also many programs in Wisconsin to help businesses start up and stay open. More than I ever imagined.”

Next, she says you need to be prepared by learning as much as you can and thinking about every possible situation that could happen as you form your policies and contracts. Even when you think you have all your ducks in a row, something unexpected might occur. “I admit there were some things



Brilynn holds a dog training certification through the CATCH Canine Trainers Academy, which is a more advanced behavior training. However, she says the most value has come from her mentors in real life. “A lot of sport training applies to everyday pet training,” she says. “I take what I like and implement it into my own training.”

I had to learn the hard way,” Brilynn shares. “You have to be adaptable.”

While Brilynn finds joy in entrepreneurship because she genuinely enjoys working with other people’s dogs, she admits there are challenges and sacrifices that you have to be willing to make. For example, many assume that entrepreneurship means flexibility. “It’s flexible in that you get to make it what you want it to be,” explains Brilynn. “I’m getting better at the work/life balance and creating boundaries, but this business is my life. You have to love what you do because

you’re committed to it even when you’re not physically there.”

Another challenge for business owners is finding the right staff. Ideally, you seek staff who align with your goals and vision for the business. Brilynn speaks highly of her current team, stating they are as close to alignment with her



It’s all wagging tails for these doggie daycare pups.

vision as they have ever been. “We have a cohesive, fun relationship. I enjoy being around them every day,” she says.

Overall, when it comes to entrepreneurship, the pros outweigh the cons for Brilynn because she is doing something that she enjoys. She hopes to see the business continue to grow and thrive, meeting the needs of area canines and their owners. “Discover what you like to do, and then figure out how to make it into a career,” she concludes.—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

GET TO KNOW JACKSON ELECTRIC’S YOUTH AMBASSADORS

The best recruitment mechanism for the youth ambassador program is the students. This month, we learn about students who joined because of the great things they heard from their siblings or friends who participated in the program.

Luke Anderson

School attending:
Lincoln (Alma Center)

Grade in school:
Junior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program? “My friend made it sound fun, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to learn.”

Future career interest/career path: Undecided.

Extracurricular activities: Basketball, football, baseball, Future Business Leaders of America, DECA (formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America), student council.

Hobbies/part-time work: Sports, games, weightlifting, cooking.

What three items would you bring with you on a deserted island? Food, water, and a fire starter.



Mytchell Wollin

School attending:
Melrose-Mindoro

Grade in school:
Junior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program? “My sister was in the program, and I was interested in joining after that.”

Future career interest/career path: Something biology related.

Extracurricular activities: Academic decathlon, band, choir, drama.

Hobbies/part-time work: Walmart, online German class, reading.

What three items would you bring with you on a deserted island? Water filter, knot tying book, and an axe.



Jace Paul

School attending:
Lincoln (Alma Center)

Grade in school:
Junior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program? “My sisters were part of the program and recommended joining. They both enjoyed their time as youth ambassadors.”

Future career interest/career path: Mechanical engineering.

Extracurricular activities: Football, baseball, basketball, Future Business Leaders of America, student council.

Hobbies/part-time work: Sports, fishing, hanging with friends, lifting.

What three items would you bring with you on a deserted island? Boat, captain, and gasoline.



2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Jackson Electric offers rebates to members who purchase qualified energy efficient items and lighting.

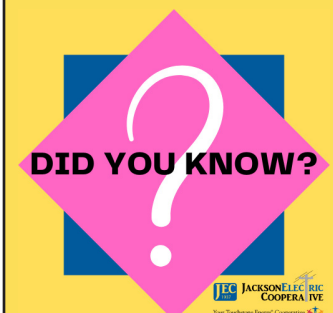
- Qualified items must be purchased, installed, and operating (generating kWhs) on Jackson Electric’s service lines in 2024.
- Active memberships only.
- Submit to our office your **completed and signed rebate application within 60 days** following your invoice date with the Energy Star label (if applicable) and paid receipt.
- Contact our office for an application form. Application forms can also be completed and submitted through our website at www.jackelec.com.
- **Your rebate application may be rejected if all required documentation is not completed and received within 60 days of the invoice date.**

Rebate amounts less than \$500 will be issued as a credit on the member’s billing statement. More than that amount, a check will be issued to the member on record.


Jackson Electric does not participate in the statewide Focus on Energy efficiency incentive program. Because the cooperative is governed by nine directors, it is felt that the money the co-op receives from its members to distribute for rebates and incentives should stay locally and within Jackson Electric’s service territory. The \$1.40 line item on your billing statement is a state-mandated charge where \$0.70 goes to low-income energy assistance programs and \$0.70 to energy efficiency programs. If the co-op would participate in Focus on Energy, this money would go to the state to be disbursed statewide rather than locally. The money Jackson Electric collects is given back only to Jackson Electric’s members in the form of energy assistance and/or energy efficiency rebates.

Audit Recommended Improvements

Incentives are available for energy efficiency improvements completed to an existing home or farm. Energy efficiency improvements must be recommendations from an audit arranged by Jackson Electric Cooperative or a cooperative-approved partner. Rebate not to exceed the cost of energy efficiency improvements up to \$500. For specific details on this program, go to www.jackelec.com or contact our office.



Jackson Electric is guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, Member Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training, and Information, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and Concern for Community.



ENERGY STAR RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING

LED Bulb (5 bulbs or more to qualify)	\$0.50/bulb
Occupancy Sensor	\$5

Please contact our office for information on non-residential lighting rebates.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER

Smart Electric Vehicle Charging Station with Integrated Metering. Car charger must be purchased from Jackson Electric.	\$800
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Must be controlled by Jackson Electric’s energy management program.

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES (must be Energy Star)

Clothes Washer	\$150
Clothes Dryer (electric)	\$150
Dishwasher	\$150
Dehumidifier	\$ 50
Inductive Range	\$150
Freezer (min. 10 cu. ft.)	\$150
Refrigerator (min. 10 cu. ft.)	\$150

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC HEAT PUMPS

Geothermal Heat Pump (new systems not allowed on cooperative’s load management program)	\$500/ton
Air Source Heat Pump and Mini Split (SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+, or SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+)	\$500/ton
Variable Speed ECM Blower Motor (new furnace only)	\$35/unit

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

100+ gallon (new)	\$300*
75 to 99 gallons (new)	\$150*
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300

* Load management receiver must be installed and operating, and energy efficiency standards must be met to receive rebate. Rebate is deducted from the purchase price of the 100-gallon water heater if purchased from Jackson Electric.

AG., COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRESCRIPTIVE

Contact the office or go to www.jackelec.com for qualification requirements.

Exhaust Fan	\$1/inch
Circulation Fan	\$1/inch
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler	\$500/unit
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	\$300/unit
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	\$50/unit
Scroll Refrigerator Compressor	\$30/HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$30/HP
Commercial Vending Machine Controls	\$25 each

ZOOMING IN ON TANNER

Apprentice lineman Tanner Klobucher joined the Jackson Electric team about three years ago. Tanner previously worked for Push, Inc. and A-1 Power, contractors utilized by Jackson Electric. "I'm a third-generation lineman," says Tanner. "Both my grandfather and father were linemen, and I wanted to follow in their footsteps."



As an apprentice lineman, Tanner completed a nine-month electrical power distribution program. He is three and one-half years into his five-year apprenticeship. "The first four years include coursework, and the last year is all on-the-job training," explains Tanner. "I just recently reached the point in the apprenticeship where I can work on energized lines."

When you become a lineman, you can expect to be working outdoors a majority of the time, in all weather conditions. Tanner enjoys this aspect of the job, along with being able to work in different locations throughout the service territory. His advice to those interested in this career path: "Do



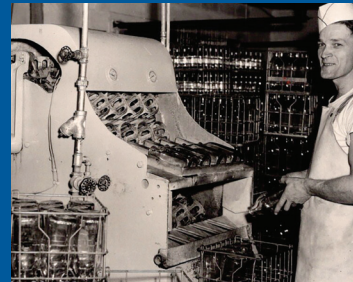
your homework. You can't be afraid of heights and working long hours when needed."

Outside of linework, you can find Tanner playing slow pitch softball and serving as the property and maintenance manager at his apartment building. Asked what he would bring with him to a deserted island, he says, "Food, water, and construction tools."

MEMORIES ARE IN THE PHOTOS



This photo was taken in February 1954. Do any of our readers know whose farmstead this is/was? If so, contact member services at 715.284.5385, press 5 or email info@jackelec.com.



Pat Thomas shows how bottles are washed and sterilized at Thomas Dairy in 1952. "It's impossible to have any kind of rural business without REA," states Pat.

Students are all smiles when the Vaudreuil School received electricity in February 1953. If anyone knows who these students are, please let us know.



We would like to know the names of these students. If you know any of these students who attended the Winnebago Mission in February of 1950, give us a call or send us an email.



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