

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

April 2026

NEWS



JACKSON ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWERING THE FUTURE

Jackson Electric Cooperative 89th Annual Meeting

April 22, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.
Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.

This is your official and only copy of the
Annual Report. Please bring this magazine
with you to the meeting for reference.



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 2025 to be held at the Lunda Theatre in the City of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of acting upon the following matters:

1. Reading of the unapproved minutes of the 2025 meeting of the members of the Cooperative and the taking of necessary action thereon.
2. Presentation of reports of directors.
3. Election of Directors for District #2, District #3, and District #8.
4. Such other further business as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2026.

Christopher J. Curran
Christopher J. Curran

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AGENDA

Jackson Electric Cooperative
89th Annual Meeting of the Members
April 22 • 6:00 p.m.
Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order.....	Christopher Curran, President
Pledge of Allegiance.....	All Members
Welcome.....	Christopher Curran, President
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	David Peasley, Secretary
Establish a Quorum.....	David Peasley, Secretary
Reading of 2025 Meeting Minutes.....	David Peasley, Secretary
President’s Report.....	Christopher Curran
Audit Report.....	CarlsonSV
Mike Anderson Memorial.....	Kristi Hanson, Vice President
General Manager/CEO Report.....	Carol Blaken
Recognition of Director’s Service.....	Christopher Curran, President
Election of Directors.....	Jessica Shrestha, Legal Counsel

Director Elections:

The three candidates listed below are the sole nominees for their respective districts. Pursuant to the bylaws, each of these uncontested director elections shall be conducted by voice vote, of the entire membership.

District 2.....	Kristi Hanson
District 3.....	Jerry Huber
District 8.....	Kris Goetzka

Old Business.....	Christopher Curran, President
New Business.....	Christopher Curran, President

Question & Answer Session
Adjournment

Prize Drawings

15 - \$100 cash prizes

Registration Gift:
\$25 energy credit and
Wi-Fi smart surge
protector
for each registered
membership in
attendance





BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND LOOKING AHEAD

Christopher J. Curran, Board President

Since 1937, Jackson Electric has been guided by a simple mission: to provide safe, reliable power for all generations. Nearly 90 years later, that mission still shapes every decision we make. As I look back on my first year as Board President, I'm proud of the progress we've made together and the foundation we're building for the future.

Reliability: Investing Today for Tomorrow

Reliability means staying ahead of problems, and your cooperative continues to strengthen the electric system you rely on every day. One of the most important ways we do that is through regular maintenance. Our crews routinely test and replace poles to ensure the backbone of the electric grid remains strong. With approximately 20 power poles per mile of line, inspections follow a rotational schedule resulting in an average five-percent replacement rate each cycle.

We are also converting overhead power lines to underground cable in areas that experience a higher outage risk. Overhead to underground conversion is one of the most effective long-term reliability upgrades a cooperative can make. Underground cable is shielded from wind, ice, heavy snow, and trees outside of the rights-of-way, which are the top causes of outages on overhead systems. By eliminating these weather and vegetation-related risks, underground lines experience significantly fewer interruptions and require less emergency maintenance.

This approach not only improves service for members in historically-outage prone areas but also frees up crews to focus on preventative work instead of storm-related repairs. It also improves system capacity and decreases the number of poles that must be inspected and replaced, saving on future maintenance costs. Over time, the result is a safer, more resilient system with lower operating costs.

Vegetation management is another critical part of reliability. Jackson Electric maintains an aggressive rights-of-way plan to minimize outages caused by trees growing near power lines. On a rotating schedule by substation, tree trimming and environmentally responsible herbicide applications are completed by our contractor. With ten substations to maintain, each receives tree trimming at least every six years and herbicide treatment every two. Our easements allow for rights-of-way maintenance up to 15 feet from the outermost conductor on each side, ensuring the proper clearance needed for reliable service.

Preventative maintenance also extends to our underground system. On a rotational basis, the underground transformers and pedestals associated with each substation undergo inspections to identify any potential safety or reliability concerns. These checks help catch issues early and extend the life of underground equipment.

Finally, upgrades can make a big difference. Animal guards have been installed at every substation, preventing many outages before they ever occur. Animal interference is one of the leading causes of service interruptions for utilities. Squirrels, birds, raccoons, and other curious wildlife can come in contact with energized components, causing faults or blown fuses that take out entire sections of line.

By installing animal guards on critical equipment, we significantly reduce the chance of these outages.

These guards act as barriers that keep wildlife away from high-voltage parts, protecting both the animals and the system. This simple but highly effective upgrade has already decreased wild-life-related outages originating at the substation and improved overall reliability across our substations.

As our homes, farms, and businesses become more electrified, these investments matter more than ever. By taking care of our system today, we ensure safe, dependable power for years to come.

A Strong, Stable Cooperative

A financially healthy cooperative returns value to its members. In 2025, we retired \$650,000 in capital credits, a direct reflection of steady financial management. Since the first capital credit retirement, Jackson Electric has returned over \$15 million to its members in the form of capital credits.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that generate profits for shareholders, not-for-profit cooperatives allocate margins back to the members in the form of capital credits when annual revenues exceed the actual cost of operating the cooperative. Each year, the Board of Directors reviews the co-op's financial health and future capital needs before deciding whether a portion of these credits can be retired and returned to members.

Our strong safety record is another point of pride. Since November 2015, Jackson Electric employees have worked 392,660 hours without a lost-time accident. That doesn't happen by accident: it comes from training, professionalism, and a culture rooted in safety.

We're also continuing our cost-of-service and rate study to make sure rates remain fair and reflect the true cost of providing electricity. This includes evaluating time-of-day options for both single-phase and three-phase members.

Wholesale Power and Market Pressures

While we continue to invest locally, conditions across the regional electric grid are bringing challenges we all need to be aware of. As we've shared in recent years, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is working harder than ever to keep supply and demand balanced as the region faces tighter capacity.

Winter Storm Fern brought days of extreme cold, heavy snow, and ice from January 22-27, putting real stress on the regional grid. According to MISO's post-event report, these conditions created operational challenges including forecasting errors, unit availability problems, and very low wind production. On January 24, conditions were serious enough that MISO declared a Maximum Generation Event for our area, which allowed them to access emergency generation, call on load-reducing resources (such as residential water heaters and enrolled commercial auto-start generators), and purchase emergency power to keep the grid stable.

Fern was a reminder that severe weather is becoming more

Continued on page 17

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The three candidates listed below are the sole nominees for their respective districts. Pursuant to the bylaws, each of these uncontested director elections shall be conducted by voice vote, of the entire membership at the annual meeting.



District 2
Kristi Hanson



District 3
Jerry Huber



District 8
Kris Goetzka

REDISTRICTING NOTICE

According to the bylaws, the area served by Jackson Electric shall be divided into a number of districts equal to the number of directors of Jackson Electric. Nine districts, nine directors, each director representing a district.

It is the duty of the board of directors to re-district whenever established districts fail to assure reasonably equal representation for all members, giving due regard for natural or political boundaries and communities of interest.

At this time, all Jackson Electric districts have equal representation.

RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

These rules are in accordance with Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article II, Section 7. Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

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 18, 2026. 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

- Members in Districts 2, 3, and 8 will be eligible to vote for their district representative. If the district seat is contested, voting will be done by in-person ballot vote at the Annual Meeting.
- Seats that are uncontested will be conducted by voice vote and all members present at the Annual Meeting shall be entitled to vote.
- All other business requiring membership action will be conducted by voice vote.

President's Message *Continued from page 15*

frequent, and our grid continues to grow more complex. MISO is addressing the issues revealed during Fern, and we will keep advocating for a balanced generation mix that includes enough dispatchable resources to keep power reliable and affordable for all our members when it matters most.

Strategic Planning for the Future

Last spring, the board completed a three-year strategic plan for the cooperative. This plan keeps us steady and forward-looking, now and for years to come.

Strategic planning is more than checking off a box. It's an ongoing process that guides how we operate and make decisions. Our plan includes key priorities such as safety, financial strength, rate structure, employee development and succession planning, and maintaining strong strategic relationships. This is a liquid plan, flexible and adaptable, allowing the board to adjust as needs change and new opportunities arise. It keeps us focused, steady, and prepared for the future.

Our Commitment Continues

We understand that topics like regional grid capacity or wholesale market conditions may feel far from everyday life. But for your board and your cooperative, these issues are central to keeping Jackson Electric stable, reliable, and prepared for the future. Through the changes and the challenges, one thing remains constant: Jackson Electric is committed to providing the safe, reliable power you depend on every day.

We look forward to seeing you at your 89th annual meeting of the Jackson Electric Cooperative on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Christopher J. Curran
Board President

88TH ANNUAL MEETING OF JACKSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

- The 88th Annual Meeting of Jackson Electric Cooperative was held at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Woods. Directors present were Gary Woods, Chris Curran, Dave Peasley, Jerry Huber, Brian Huber, Troy Torkelson, Kristi Hanson, Les Dokkestul, and Dan Smrekar. Jessica Shrestha, legal counsel, was also present.
- President Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- President Woods welcomed all in attendance. He stated that the annual meeting rules were published in the May issue of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News and the meeting will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised edition.
- Secretary David Peasley noted that the Call and Notice of Meeting had been duly published. Without objection, reading the Call and Notice of Meeting was waived. Secretary Peasley announced a quorum was present and the meeting would proceed.
- The minutes for the 2024 Annual Meeting were published in the May 2025 edition of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Without objection, reading the minutes was waived. On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for the 2024 annual meeting were approved unanimously.
- President Woods, in his presentation to the membership, stated that Jackson Electric continues to invest in reliable infrastructure and innovative technologies to keep power safe and dependable. He shared that, in 2024, the employees and board of directors reached 297,663 accident-free hours since November 2015. He acknowledged that the way people use electricity is evolving and rate structures may need to be adjusted to fairly reflect the way our system is being used.
- The audit report was presented by Abby Williamson from CarlsonSV. Williamson stated that a review of Jackson Electric's year 2024 financials was conducted by CarlsonSV and all financial statements presented fairly.
- Director Kristi Hanson presented the \$1,000 perpetual Mike Anderson Memorial to Brianne Massman, founder of the #WillIPProject.
- General Manager/CEO Kevin Babcock introduced the board of directors and thanked them for their guidance and governance. He continued by sharing his thoughts on how younger employees in the workplace embrace technology as this will help the Cooperative keep pace with the industry. He also stated the Cooperative is mindful to the wise use of members' money when discussions are held regarding the financing of assets and other investments. As this is his last annual meeting, due to his upcoming retirement, General Manager Babcock expressed his appreciation to the membership and board of directors.
- President Woods introduced Assistant General Manager Carol Blaken as Jackson Electric Cooperative's incoming General Manager/CEO.
- Legal counsel, Jessica Shrestha, explained the new election process following revisions to the bylaws adopted at the 2024 annual meeting. Consistent with the revised bylaws, Attorney Shrestha called for a motion to elect directors for three uncontested seats up for election by voice vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, the members unanimously reelected the following directors, each for three-year terms: District 1 – Les Dokkestul, District 6 – Troy Torkelson, District 9 – Gary Woods.
- Old Business – none.
- New Business – none.
- There were three member questions that were addressed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. without objection.
- Fifteen members won \$100 cash prizes. Each registered membership in attendance was given a \$10 energy credit to be applied to their next billing statement and a WIFI smart surge protector.
- There were 91 registered members in attendance at the meeting. Total attendance was 135.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Peasley, Secretary

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Operations

Operating Revenue	
Electric Energy Sales	\$23,928,232
Total Operating Revenue	\$23,928,232

Operating Expenses

Cost of Power.....	\$14,182,780
Distribution Expense – Operations.....	1,179,033
Distribution Expense – Maintenance.....	1,327,212
Member Accounts.....	342,186
Member Service and Informational.....	207,832
Administrative & General Expense.....	1,885,588
Depreciation Expense.....	2,108,935
Tax Expense.....	282,394
Interest on Long-Term Debt (CFC).....	772,925
Total Cost of Electric Service.....	\$22,288,886

Operating Margins.....	\$1,624,288
Non-Operating Margins.....	218,111
DPC and Other Capital Credits.....	721,992
Net Margins.....	\$2,564,391

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Net Utility Plant.....	\$34,968,352
Long-Term Investments.....	13,003,282
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	1,884,453
Accounts Receivable.....	1,550,259
Materials & Prepayments.....	581,291
Other Assets & Deferred Debits.....	2,146,628
Total Assets.....	\$54,134,265

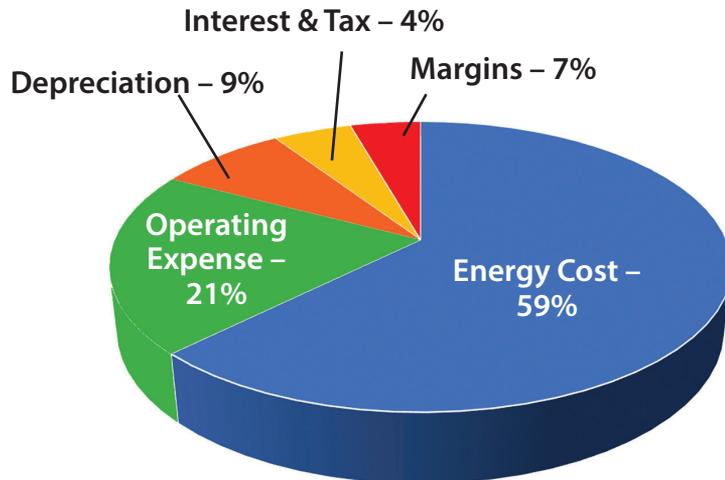
Liabilities & Equity

Patronage Capital and Other Equities.....	\$29,059,972
Member Deposits.....	5,250
Long-Term Debt.....	19,586,668
Accounts Payable.....	1,952,799
Other Current Liabilities and Deferred Credits.....	3,529,575
Total Members' Liabilities & Equity.....	\$54,134,265

Energy cost is payment for wholesale energy. Dairyland Power provides wholesale electric service to 27 municipal utilities and 24 distribution cooperatives, to include Jackson Electric Cooperative.

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

2025 Expenses: How Your Energy Dollar Was Spent



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 833.679.0919
www.jackelec.com



Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office Hours: Mondays – Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Board of Directors: Chris Curran, President
Kristi Hanson, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Les Dokkestul, Brian Huber, Dan Smrekar,
Troy Torkelson, Gary Woods

Carol Blaken, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

BLACK RIVER FALLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S "DINNER CHURCH" RECEIVES 2026 MIKE ANDERSON MEMORIAL

Honoring a legacy of compassion by feeding body, mind, and spirit



BRF UMC Pastor Inwha Shon (left) and Church Dinner Leader Charlene Galston are appreciative of the Mike Anderson Memorial to support the Dinner Church ministry.

Jackson Electric is proud to name the Black River Falls United Methodist Church (BRF UMC) as the 2026 recipient of the Mike Anderson Memorial, an annual \$1,000 award honoring the legacy of former longtime Jackson Electric general manager Mike Anderson. Mike cared deeply for the communities where our members live and work, and this memorial allows his commitment to service to live

on through organizations making a meaningful difference.

Few local efforts embody that spirit more clearly than Dinner Church, a weekly

community meal ministry that has grown into both a lifeline and a place of belonging for hundreds of people.

A Ministry Shaped by Hospitality

Dinner Church began in March 2024 as part of the Fresh Expressions movement, an effort within the church to bring God's love beyond traditional settings and into everyday spaces. "The idea is to introduce and show people God's love by our actions in an environment that is less threatening, and in a way demonstrated by Christ, during a meal," says Dinner Church Leader Charlene Galston.

What started as a modest effort to provide 50 meals per week has grown rapidly. As the ministry grew, it began serving a total of 150–200 meals every Wednesday, welcoming young families, elderly neighbors, singles, individuals who are unhomed, and others who simply need a warm meal or company. BRF UMC Pastor Inwha Shon describes the heart of the program: "Dinner Church is a hospitality ministry that shows others they are loved and welcome. It breaks down the barriers of physical church as a building, focusing on church as a community. We're building relationships through the provision of physical and spiritual food."

For many attendees, Dinner Church is the most comforting moment of their week. Through food and conversation, new friendships form and community ties strengthen. "We have several attendees that have formed a connection and sit together every week now," shares Charlene. "They have even added more chairs around their table."

More Than a Meal

Charlene works with hired cook Martha Rommel to plan a three-month menu for Dinner Church, which is reviewed by a local dietician for nutritional soundness. "I like to serve fresh fruit when possible, and I go shopping on Wednesday mornings to see what is on sale," says Charlene.

A typical Wednesday involves hours of preparation. Starting at 3 p.m., a small group of volunteers set tables, brew coffee, and prepare snacks and desserts. Depending on the menu, the group may also prepare salads or entrees. At 4 p.m. other volunteers begin to arrive

to help with any remaining tasks. Guests arrive as early as 4:30 p.m. for conversation, coffee, and snacks.

At 5 p.m., the group of volunteers prepares to-go meals in advance. "Usually around 50 people eat in," Charlene says. While many people eat on site, to-go meals outnumber dine-in nearly two to one, ensuring food reaches individuals who lack transportation, face mobility challenges, or need multiple meals for family members.

Despite its name, Dinner Church is not a formal hour-long church service. However, at 5:30 p.m. time is taken for prayer and a short scripture reading or message, with meal service following. Volunteers eat alongside guests, creating the sense of togetherness that defines Dinner Church. "There are conversation-starter cards on each table to help spark conversation among attendees and volunteers, if needed," Charlene points out.

Beyond the weekly logistics, the impact is unmistakable. Volunteers have watched neighbors overcome loneliness, secure housing, gain employment, and take steps toward stability, sometimes with help from fellow attendees and volunteers. "They look out for one another," Charlene shares. "If someone is ill or hospitalized, others let us know. To me, that is community."

A Community Effort

The ministry relies on a core group of about 20 volunteers, with around 10 helping weekly to set up, serve the meal, and clean up afterward. Community members and regular attendees have increasingly stepped forward to serve, with an online sign-up allowing anyone to join in. "We are always open to others coming to join us in meal prep, serving, and interacting with the guests," says Charlene. "Volunteering at Dinner Church fulfills your heart in a different way," she adds.

Financially, the program depends on donations, grants, and the generosity of individuals who contribute food items. Rising food costs and growing attendance have made support more important than ever. "We didn't anticipate the rising food costs or the rapid growth," says Charlene. "We are very grateful for Jackson Electric awarding us the Mike Anderson Memorial. We have truly been the receivers of abundant grace."

Looking Ahead

Dinner Church celebrated its second anniversary in March, and organizers anticipate continued growth. Dinner Church provides a small container for attendees to leave comments or a free will donation, should they choose. "Oftentimes, we get little notes with menu ideas, but often, they say things like 'thank you for making a difference in my life,'" Charlene concludes.

Celebrating Service in Mike's Honor

The Dinner Church ministry represents the compassion, humility, and commitment to community that defined Mike Anderson's life and leadership. Jackson Electric is honored to support this local effort and to help carry forward Mike's legacy through the lives it touches each week.

— Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Supervisor



Dinner Church volunteers prepare the to-go meals in advance of the dine-in meal.

DIRECTORS

President Christopher Curran District 4
 Vice President Kristi Hanson District 2
 Secretary/Treasurer Dave Peasley District 5
 DPC Representative Jerry Huber District 3

Les Dokkestul District 1
 Troy Torkelson District 6
 Brian Huber District 7
 Dan Smrekar District 8
 Gary Woods District 9

STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

Carol Blaken – General Manager/CEO
 Eric Steien – Line Superintendent
 Brian Schultz – Director of Operations
 Bradley Elvaker – Finance Manager

Janet Brandli	Reed Holliday	Kyle Steien
Matt Bush	Tanner Klobucher	Grant Witcraft
Don Fortun, Jr.	Maggie Mickelson	Adam Wiedl
Jerel Gunning	Emma Robertson	Hazy Wood
Jesse Hansen	Bradyn Schneider	Jordan Zillmer
Gary Hammond	Brandi Shramek	

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 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
	4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
	5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION
	6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
	7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY