



Kevin Babcock,  
General Manager/CEO

## THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE, VETERANS

On November 11, we recognize Veterans Day as a national holiday. As I prepared to write this column, I reflected back on the several groups of veterans I was able to meet this past summer. Some were older, and some were younger. Yet, I began to realize how similar their ideas and principles are regardless of age.

Many of our veterans were volunteers. They were able to select which Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) they did, and many were able to choose where they served. Some of the veterans

I spoke with were drafted, and they were not as fortunate to have had a great deal of choices. I enjoyed hearing stories from both groups, from where they served to how long they were in. I realized for most of them, the military was full of firsts: the first time away from home, visiting another state, flying, riding on a Greyhound bus, riding on a train, or going to a foreign land.

It's amazing how so many inter-generational people can relate to the same experiences. I am from the baby boomer generation, and I find it difficult to converse with other generations: y, z, or the millennials. Yet, I can speak with veterans of various ages without any issues. I believe the common bond vet-



erans all have is that we swore an oath to protect the constitution of the United States.

I was sworn in at the reception depot in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Prior to my oath of enlistment, a Command Sergeant Major spoke to the group and helped us understand what we were swearing to, that the oath lasts forever. He explained that unlike a politician's oath, our oath would follow us for eternity.

To my brothers and sisters, thank you for your service and enjoy your day. I especially want to thank our Gold Star families who will forever wait for their loved ones to come home.

## Call for District Director Nominations

The Bylaw amendments adopted at last year's annual meeting changed the way Jackson Electric directors are nominated. The newly adopted nomination procedure is as follows:

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4 (c) of the Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws: "Nominations for candidates for director to represent each district shall be made by petition signed by not less than ten (10) members eligible to vote in the district to be represented by the candidate and delivered to the principal office of JEC at least thirty (30) days prior to the district meeting. Nominations from the floor at the district meetings will not be permitted unless there is no qualified nominee by petition who is able and willing to serve as a director."

Nomination packets can be obtained at Jackson Electric's office. Candidates are subject to a background check. **The documents included in the nomination packet must be completed in their entirety and received within Jackson Electric's office (not the drop box) no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.**

District meetings will be held in Districts 2, 3, and 8. Members who have a meter in each of these districts will receive a meeting notice via USPS in February. The newly elected directors begin their terms following ratification at the annual meeting.

- **District #2: Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 7 p.m., Town of Alma Town Hall (tentative)**
- **District #3: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 7 p.m., Town of Mentor Town Hall**
- **District #8: Thursday, February 20, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Millston Community Center**
- **Annual Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 7 p.m., Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls, Wis.**

### Director Qualifications

Article III, Section 3 (b) of the Bylaws of Jackson Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director.

Qualifications. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in JEC who:

- (1) does not have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts, or
  - (2) is not a bona fide resident in the area served by JEC, and of the particular district which he or she represents, or
  - (3) is in any way employed by or financially interested in
    - (a) a competing enterprise, or
    - (b) a business selling electric energy or supplies to JEC, or
  - (4) is an employee of JEC, or
  - (5) has any form of pending litigation which is, in any way, adverse to the interest of JEC, had participated in litigation or had some form of
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adversarial claim against JEC within ten years of nomination, election or appointment, or is likely to have an adversarial interest, claim or litigation against JEC during the term of his or her director position, or

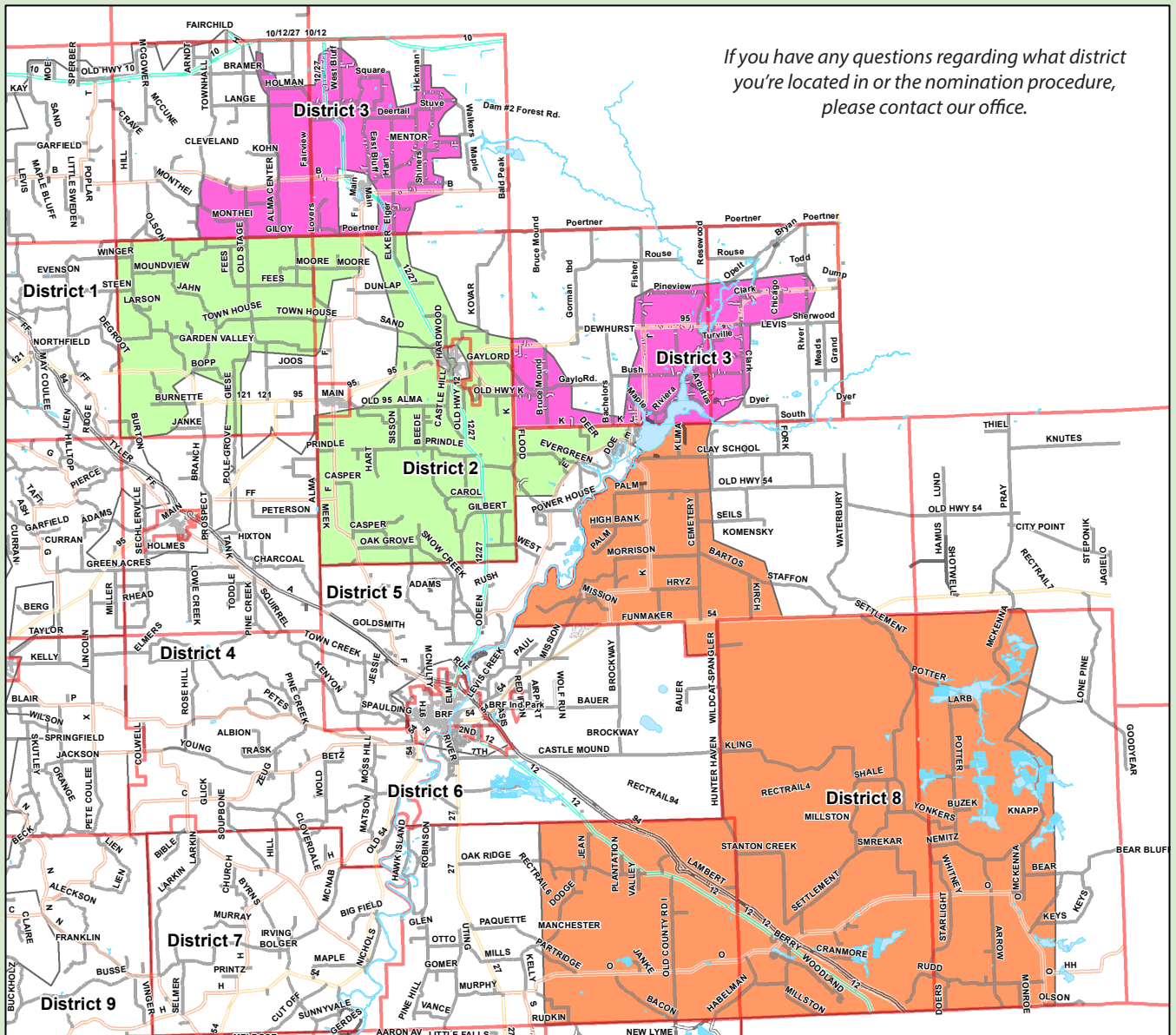
- (6) while serving as a director or at any time within ten years preceding his or her nomination, election, or appointment was an employee of JEC, or
- (7) while serving as a director, or at anytime within 15 years preceding his or her nomination, election or appointment, was convicted, or completed a sentence, probation or parole arising from conviction, of

a felony or other offense involving dishonesty or breach of trust.

When a membership is held jointly, either joint member, but not both, shall be eligible to be a director, provided the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in (1) through (7), above, and provided further that the other joint member meets the qualifications in (3) through (7), above. When a membership is held by a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, any one (but not more than one) of the officers, partners, or members shall be eligible, provided the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in (1) through (7), above, and provided further that all the

officers, partners, or members meet the qualifications in (3) through (7), above.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to preclude any member from serving as a director or from holding any position of trust in JEC because such member is an incumbent of or candidate for the office of town chairman or supervisors or because such member is also a member or director of any other cooperative from which JEC purchases or may purchase electric energy, supplies or services, not shall anything in this section contained by deemed or construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

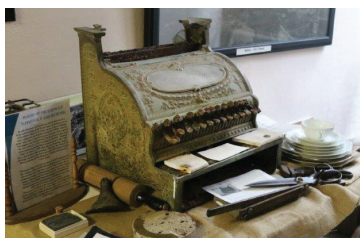




# Discovering the Past

## with the Jackson County Historical Society

*"In mid-afternoon on October 6, 1911, the flood of 1911 destroyed buildings along Water Street, including 42 acres of downtown Black River Falls. In one of these buildings was a national Cash Register, Serial No. 419840, with the name "Ben Olson" inscribed across the front of the register. This register was found about 2,100 feet downstream along the river bank by a crew working for McNulty Trucking and Excavating during their work on the new dike. This "find" on June 22, 1995, after 83 years, 8 months, and 16 days, then leads to the question, "Who was Ben Olson?" In checking records at the Jackson County Historical Society's History Room and the Register of Deeds, some answers were found."*



This cash register was found 83 years, 8 months, and 16 days after it was swept away in the flood of 1911.

Ben Olson's Cash Register is just one of the many exhibits you'll find on display at the Jackson County Historical Society Museum, housed in the historic Carnegie Library building on Main Street in downtown Black River Falls. While this building no longer serves as the

public library, there is a "library" of history to be discovered within its walls.

The Jackson County Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the "preservation, education, and sharing of our vast history, culture, and heritage through exhibits, photographs, and music from the past, present, and future generations."

"To appreciate where we are, we need to discover and understand what's happened," says Jackson County Historical Society President Bruce Thayer. "Our history is a story, and we're teaching others to understand that story."

In order to fulfill the Society's mission of sharing our country's history, support is needed from the community, but it's not monetary donations that the Society seeks. "We are in need of more people, bodies that have time to learn and give back to the community," says Bruce. "Those interested in volunteering at the Historical Society don't have to know about history to get involved. We'll show you what to do and teach you what you need to know."

The Historical Society Museum is open to the public April through October, on Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment. A key volunteer opportunity at the museum is to be a guide. "We have both local visitors and those who are traveling and stop in on a rainy day," Bruce describes. "We would like someone that can talk to people, guide visitors around the museum, and answer questions that they may have."



Located on Main Street in Black River Falls, the Historical Society resides within the historic Carnegie Library.

Gloria Curran has been a Historical Society member and volunteer since 2001. "What I like most," shares Gloria, "is being open for tours and talking with visitors. If they don't want a tour, we have a self-guided tour booklet that we can provide." Gloria also coordinates the volunteer schedule and recalls the high school-aged student that enjoyed volunteering to give tours at the museum before she headed off to college. "She even asked the visitors to give her a grade at the end," she adds.

Guides can show visitors the museum's variety of exhibits, including a Civil War Union Soldier Great Coat, a Hancock Square Grand Piano from 1873, an 1870s wedding dress in pristine condition, and the office of longtime Black River Falls dentist, Dr. Reichert, who also served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Bruce says, "We're careful about what we take in. We only take in items that are known to have Jackson County origin."

Another need at the museum is the time and energy of individuals with computer skills to help with the accessioning of items. Accessioning is the process of taking a picture of each museum item, uploading it to the computer, and typing in the item's information or description. This record-keeping

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Left: The Dr. Reichert Dentist office exhibit is just one of many in the Historical Society Museum. Right: The color of this pristine wedding dress allowed it to be used for other events. Pictured behind it is a display of photographer Charles Van Schaick.



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helps the Society keep track of what they have. With many items to organize and accession, this can be a long process for Society members to complete on their own. “This is a great opportunity for students,” says Gloria, “and volunteering looks good on your resumé.” “We can be flexible to work with your schedule,” Bruce adds.

The Society also provides presentations to community groups, particularly local fourth-grade students, as that’s the year students cover Wisconsin’s history. These presentations highlight Jackson County’s accomplishments and various industries, providing the students with a local connection to history. Social events and presentations have also been held at the Lunda Center’s Hub, Black River Falls Public Library, and Pine View Care Center. “Knowing something about your area, and it doesn’t have to be your family’s history, helps you discover and understand how we got here,” says Bruce. “If someone has a skill or expertise they’d like to share, we’re interested in developing new Jackson County topics.”



Bruce Thayer, Historical Society President, poses in front of the Jackson County military exhibits.

The Historical Society’s main community promotional event is during all five

days of the Jackson County Fair. During this time, there’s a silent auction, a prize wheel to spin, and museum exhibits on display in the Historical Society building, next to the antique building (which is also owned by the Society). “We can always use more people to help at the fair,” says Gloria. “This past fair, we had youth help with the prize wheel.”

As with any museum, regular cleaning and janitorial duties go hand-in-hand with the exhibits and foot traffic throughout the building’s two stories. Volunteers may help with vacuuming, dusting, cleaning of the restroom, and organizing items. While these opportunities are not directly involved with teaching others about Jackson County’s history, they are important for preserving exhibits and making sure the museum is ready for public display.

While the museum is only open by appointment from November through March, during the winter months, there are still plenty of projects to work on over the winter to prepare for the summer. The museum is usually also open during city events, such as the Christkindl Festival. If you’re interested in volunteering or just want to see what the organization is all about, Bruce encourages you to stop by: “Come tour, see what it’s like. You’ll learn something new.” —*Brandi Shramek, Executive Coordinator*

Find the Jackson County Historical Society on Facebook @JacksonCountyHistoricalSocietyWisconsin and check out the historical photographs that are continually added to the page.

Those interested in volunteering at the Jackson County Historical Society can contact any one of the board of directors, contact the office at 715.284.5314, or stop in to visit. No formal application is required.

## DUAL FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT RECEIVER TEST NOVEMBER 20

**Load management receivers will be tested Wednesday, November 20, 5 to 10 p.m.** Members who participate in the dual fuel program will experience an interruption in their electric heat during this period. Testing ensures equipment is working properly for the winter heating season.

Please make sure your backup heating system is operational before this date.

This system-wide test is administered by Dairyland Power. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jackson Electric’s office.

### Load Management Notifications Available

Members can now be notified by email, text, and/or phone call of a load management event. Please contact the office to request a load management enrollment form or go to [www.jackelec.com/content/dual-fuel-program](http://www.jackelec.com/content/dual-fuel-program) to download a form. This form must be on file at Jackson Electric for you to receive notifications.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385  
800.370.4607  
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)  
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511  
Credit Card Payments 844.759.3984  
[www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com)



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546  
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  
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Jerry Wagner

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