



**Jump River  
Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



David Oelkers,  
Interim General Manager

## KEEPING YOUR CO-OP FINANCIALLY SOUND

### Rate Increase Recommended

Early this year your board approved a budget for 2017 that included a slight rate increase. Two months ago I mentioned in this publication that there was a cost-of-service and rate study that was being worked on. The purpose of that study is to provide information and direction on the need for an increase and suggested methods of spreading an increase. That study is being completed as I prepare this article. At the board meeting at the end of July, with the help of the JREC staff, we will recommend a plan of action to ensure the first steps on a path to financial stability for your cooperative. The plan will very likely include a reasonable rate increase that needs to happen very soon.

As you all know, this cooperative has not had a rate increase in about five years. That is very admirable, but it can

only last so long and then the board must reluctantly take action as part of its duty to ensure financial stability for your cooperative.

I have learned in my very short time here that the members, board, and employees are very proud of JREC. It is

my opinion that in order to keep JREC financially healthy, the board needs to take action on an increase. Let's face it, no one likes to see their electric rates go up. It didn't take me 32 years in this business to learn that. However, in that time I have also seen cooperatives that through extreme conservatism have hurt the organization. Being conservative and thrifty is a good thing, but like everything else if it is taken to the extreme it can do damage. Delaying an increase at this time may cause damage to the organization and will result in a larger (and more painful) increase in the future.

For those reasons, we will recommend a rate increase to be implemented as soon as possible, but no later than September 1 of this year as determined by the board at their meeting later in July. Naturally, the board has the final decision on a rate increase. The board will consider this and make a decision based on the information from the cost-of-service and rate study and in the best interest of the cooperative.

Please understand Jump River Electric's Board of Directors and its management have the responsibility of ensuring that

the cooperative operates as efficiently as possible and maintains a sound financial position. The rate modification that will be considered will better reflect the cost of providing service to you, our valued members, and will keep the cooperative sound financially.

### Important Planning Activities

During the past few months there has been a flurry of activities that are important to the future success of this cooperative. They include a cost-of-service and rate study, completion of a 10-year financial forecast, a 15-year long-range plan for the system, a four-year construction work plan, and the continued conversion to the RF meters on the system. That may not seem like much to some people, but I can tell you that while these projects consume large amounts of staff time, they are crucial to the success of your cooperative. Each of these is an important step that any cooperative board must set in motion as part of its fiduciary responsibility and to ensure the successful long-term future of the organization. All of these were part of the 2017 budget, and I am happy that I could help move these along during my short stay with your cooperative.

### Financial Planning Policy Adopted

At the June board meeting, the board adopted a Financial Planning Policy. This policy will help your board and the new manager in developing budgets to address the needs of the organization in the future. It is the type of policy that tends to be overlooked because it seems to be such an automatic process. In fact, this policy spells out more clearly each planning area that needs to be updated and reviewed periodically to keep the cooperative on a successful path.

### Thanks to All

By the time you read this, I will be in my final days with your cooperative. I want to simply say thanks to the JREC board for allowing me the opportunity to work with your organization for the last few months. You have a very good cooperative! I believe it is good because the membership is engaged and working to make JREC a better cooperative. Certainly, with every cooperative there are differing opinions on what needs to take place to make the organization better, but the important part is to continue to communicate in a COOPERATIVE manner and allow the democratic process to work. I have seen that in my time here, and I hope that it will continue. Finally, I believe it is critical to your cooperative's success that every member has some patience and understanding for the challenges your board will face as it continues to move this organization forward.

**...we will recommend a plan of action to ensure the first steps on a path to financial stability for your cooperative.**

# Congratulations...

We congratulate these students from area schools who have been awarded a scholarship from Jump River Electric Cooperative. Students pictured here recently graduated from one of the 11 area high schools that are within our service territory. Each student will receive a \$400 Jump River Electric Cooperative Scholarship. One student, Brennan Ceglar from Flambeau, was also selected as the \$500 Jump River Electric Cooperative-John Hirschfeld Jr. Lineworker Scholarship.

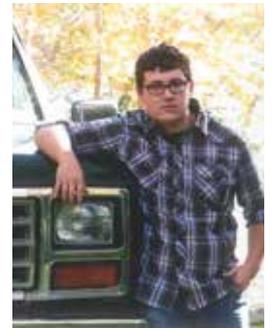
Monies for these scholarships come from the Federated Youth Foundation, which is funded through unclaimed capital credits.



Casey Kroening  
Bruce High School



Paige Scoles  
Bruce High School



Brennan Ceglar  
Flambeau High School  
Jump River Electric Cooperative-  
John Hirschfeld Jr. Lineworker Scholarship



Lisa Kern  
Flambeau High School



Alicia Hoehn  
Gilman High School



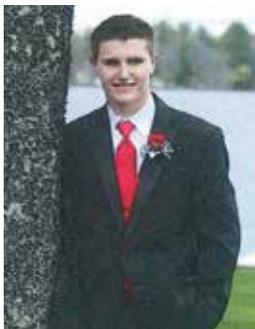
Lane Webster  
Gilman High School



Nicholas Bubolz  
Hayward High School



Frank Lazar  
Hayward High School



Reece Kinney  
Holcombe High School



Hannah Lee  
Holcombe High School



Hannah Abbiehl  
Ladysmith High School



Charlee Thompson  
Ladysmith High School



Jessy Martinson  
LCO High School

Pictured at right is Shaniah Kagigebi, recipient of the \$500 Jump River Electric Cooperative-Charles Kagigebi Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a student attending the LCO Community College.



## ... to our 2017 Scholarship Winners

There were no applicants from Chetek/Weyerhaeuser, Rib Lake, Stanley-Boyd, and Winter High Schools.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY DOING THE SUMMER SHIFT

As we begin August, we are entering the final month of the Summer Shift. This is an energy-saving initiative that all co-op members can participate in together. By working together, we can all help control

our incremental summer wholesale power charges, and that helps keep costs down for everyone. Your participation is so much appreciated!

This month, we encourage you to continue participating by shifting some electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. summer weekdays. These are the peak energy demand hours (the “electricity rush hours”) in our region. That means they are the hours that most tax the resources that generate and transmit electricity to our region, making it more expensive to provide for the higher energy demand.

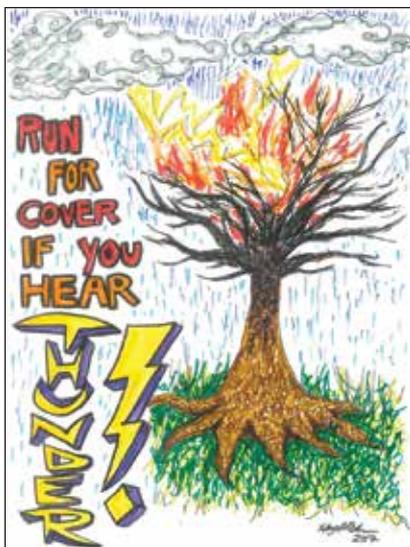
Please continue participating in the Summer Shift this month by trying a few of these suggestions:

- Turn off any unneeded lights and electronics (turn electronics off at the surge strip when possible).
- Delay watching TV and charging

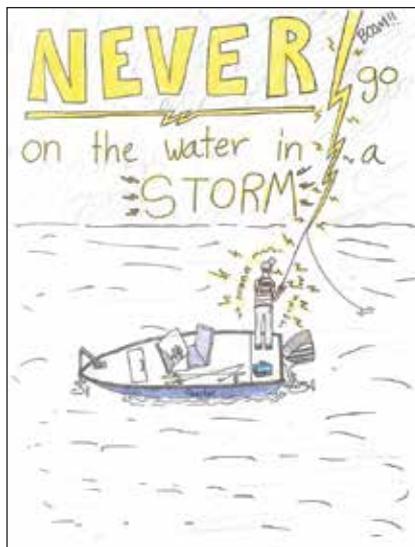
your phone or computer batteries until after 7 p.m.

- Run appliances like clothes washers and dryers and dishwashers before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Delay using hot water until after 7 p.m. so your water heater recharges after 7 p.m.
- Set the thermostat on your air conditioning equipment or heat pump up 3 or 4 degrees from 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.
- Shift the timer settings for running pool or spa heaters.
- Use ceiling fans and close drapes to help the air conditioner even more.

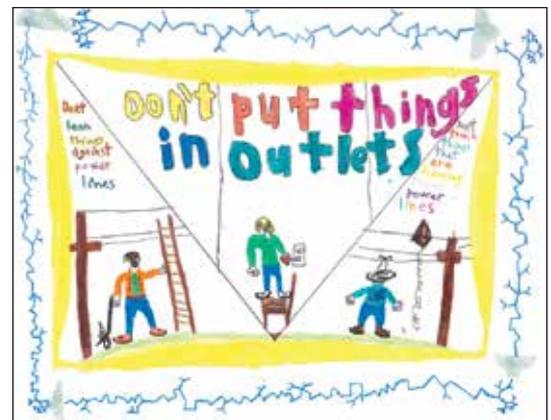
Every effort you make to shift electricity use outside of these “electricity rush hours” will reward you and your fellow members—you make a difference!



Hazel Peterson, age 17, of Ladysmith



Bishop Peterson, age 13, of Ladysmith



Logan Welch, age 9, of Gilman



Maya Welch, age 7, of Gilman

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

2017 marked the 15th year for holding the electrical safety poster contest. This contest is offered to all members between the ages of 5 and 18 along with students attending schools that participate in our free electrical safety demonstrations. The contest is broken into four categories as follows: ages 5–7, ages 8–10, ages 11–13, and ages 14–18. A \$50 cash prize will be awarded to each of the following winners.



# GET MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR AS LITTLE AS \$1 PER MONTH



If you are interested in protecting our environment and getting more of your electricity from renewable resources, we have a great program for you. Evergreen is a voluntary renewable energy (green power) program available to your home, farm, or business through Jump River Electric Cooperative. And now, we've made it even more affordable.

Evergreen comes from solar, wind, and waste-to-energy renewable resources. Your participation in Evergreen enables our cooperative to secure additional

renewable energy resources above and beyond government requirements.

Evergreen is for you if you are willing to pay a little bit more to get some or all of your electricity from renewable energy resources. In addition to your normal monthly electric bill, you pay a small, additional charge each month to offset the additional cost it takes to support renewable energy.

And now, it's even more affordable. For as little as an additional \$1 per month, you can help support the generation of renewable energy and a cleaner environment. Evergreen costs \$1 per 100 kilowatt hour (kWh) block. You can choose to cover a portion or all of your home's energy usage. For example, for an additional

\$8 per month participation in Evergreen, assuming an average home using 800 kWh per month, you can cover all of your home's usage with green power.

For more information about Evergreen renewable energy, go to our web site, [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com), or call our office at 715-532-5524.

## 79th Annual Meeting Saturday, October 21, 2017

JREC's annual meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School, with a pancake and ham breakfast and registration to begin at 8 a.m. and the business meeting to begin at 10 a.m. More information to follow in next month's issue.

## NOTICE TO ALL DUAL FUEL MEMBERS WHO ARE SUB-METERED

Please leave power on to your DUAL FUEL METER at all times. You may turn off the circuit breakers that control the heaters, but the meter power should remain on. If you have any questions, please call Jeff at (715) 532-5524.

## JREC MAY BE STOPPING BY

If you see a Jump River Electric Cooperative truck in your driveway at some point throughout the year, don't be alarmed! It is probably one of our member services gentlemen stopping by to test your dual fuel receiver. The receiver is the gray or brown box that is, more than likely, on the outside of your house. If you have any questions, please call (715) 532-5524; ask for Jeff.



### SATELLITE INTERNET

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**LIBERTY PLANS:**  
Friendlier data caps!

Now UP TO **12 Mbps**



LIBERTY 12	LIBERTY 25	LIBERTY 50
PRIORITY DATA <b>12 GB</b>	PRIORITY DATA <b>25 GB</b>	PRIORITY DATA <b>50 GB</b>
<b>\$49.99/mo</b>	<b>\$69.99/mo</b>	<b>\$89.99/mo</b>

All three packages include:

- Liberty Pass** – 1–5 Mbps download speed  
Morning/daytime after priority data used
- Free Zone** – 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily

**LIBERTY PASS**

If you go over your monthly data allowance, you'll get the Liberty Pass, which will allow you to use more data at download speeds of up to 1 to 5 Mbps in the morning/daytime. It's fast enough to allow you to continue to use the internet, with better speeds during daytime hours.

**AFFORDABLE, PREDICTABLE PRICE**

With plans starting at just \$49.99/mo, you can afford the internet service you deserve.

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\* Basic standard installation is included, additional fees will be charged for work done outside of a Standard installation. Minimum 24-month service term. Taxes apply. One-time equipment fees apply. Speeds "up to" are not guaranteed, and will vary. Liberty Pass speeds are slower than Priority Data speeds and will vary greatly based on time of day and network traffic in area. Speeds may be very slow when network is busy. Heavier users of Liberty Pass may experience slower speeds than lighter users. See Data Allowance Policy at [www.Exede.com/legal](http://www.Exede.com/legal) for details. Service is not available in all areas. All offers may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Exede is a registered service mark of Via Sat Inc.

1102 W. Ninth St. North, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
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*JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



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