

## RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

These rules are set in accordance with Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article II, Section 7. Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

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 January 11, 2019. 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).

## DISTRICT MEETINGS TO BE HELD



Jackson Electric Cooperative is divided into nine director districts; one director from each district makes up the cooperative's board of directors. Each year, district meetings are held in three of the nine districts, and a director is elected at each of those meetings. The newly elected directors begin their terms following ratification at the annual meeting. This year's district meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

### District #1

Thursday,  
February 7, at  
the Northfield  
Town Hall at  
7 p.m.;



incumbent is Stan Gran

### District #6

Tuesday,  
February 5, at  
Jackson Electric  
Cooperative  
at 7 p.m.;



incumbent is Jerry Wagner

### District #9

Wednesday,  
February 6,  
at Melrose  
Town Hall  
at 7 p.m.;



incumbent is Gary Woods

If you have a meter in one of these districts, you will receive a meeting notice dated January 8, 2019. If you have any questions regarding the district meetings or what district you're located in, please contact our office.

### Obligations of the Board of Directors

The board of directors provides leadership and guidance to Jackson Electric Cooperative's management. Their primary responsibility is the establishment of long-term, broad objectives, purposes, and visions for the cooperative. The directors are subject to standards of fiduciary responsibility. These include the duties of care and loyalty. Under the duty of care, the directors are required to, as stated in Jackson Electric Cooperative's Policy 202:

- Exercise a degree of care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise under similar circumstances.
- Have or acquire the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to direct the affairs of the cooperative.
- Make every effort to attend all meetings of the board and to study materials that are sent prior to each board meeting.
- Study and adhere to all obligations imposed by the Articles of Incorporation, the bylaws, contractual agreements, and Board policies.

Under the duty of loyalty, directors are required to:

- Act only in the best long-term interest of Jackson Electric and its members.
- Place the interest of Jackson Electric over any personal interests.
- Not have any financial interest in a directly competing business or one that does business with Jackson Electric.
- Avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest.
- Avoid any future conflict of interest by refusing to receive any remuneration from any entity proposing to purchase all or substantially all of the assets of Jackson Electric.
- Represent and support the interests of Jackson Electric to elected and public officials.
- Accept decisions of the Board except in extraordinary circumstances where the director believes that there is a clear and present threat to the survival of Jackson Electric.

Excerpt from Article III, Section 2. Election of District Directors... "Nominations for director to represent the district shall be made from the floor at the district meeting, and in addition to the other qualifications required by these bylaws, the prospective director must be a resident of the district he or she is to represent. Election shall be made by secret written ballot."

Bylaws can be viewed at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).



# THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

## and Your Opportunities to Help People in Crisis

Imagine you are in the hospital and you need a life-saving blood transfusion. Envision your home is engulfed in flames, all of your belongings left inside. Picture your community underwater, roadways torn apart. Visualize a lifeguard leaving his/her stand to save a swimmer in crisis.

These uncommon disasters have a similar need: relief. And often, the relief from these and so many other tragedies came through the programs, volunteers, and supporters of the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross: You know the name, you know the logo. But do you know everything they do? “I love the Red Cross because of the humanitarian message and variety of opportunities,” says local volunteer Sharon Ernst. “There is so much more to the organization than most realize.”

The lives of residents in parts of Jackson Electric’s service territory have been influenced by the services delivered by the American Red Cross Northwest Wisconsin Chapter. As the executive director of the Northwest Wisconsin Chapter, Kyle Kriegl is the face of the Red Cross in the communities of Bayfield, Ashland, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Jackson counties.

“The American Red Cross makes a difference in people’s lives every day through all of our different lines of service,” Kyle says.

The Wisconsin Region of the American Red Cross is comprised of five chapters. While the Northwest Chapter is headquartered in Altoona, there is also an office located in downtown Black River Falls, solely staffed by



Local volunteers offer support at a Veterans Expo/Stand Down event at the Black River Falls American Legion.

local volunteers. The American Red Cross has provided disaster care, veterans support, blood services, and health/safety classes to Wisconsin communities for more than 100 years.

You’ve probably heard about the Red Cross’s disaster relief efforts on the national news. Did you know that includes volunteers from this area who have responded to many of those disasters, including Hurricane Florence and the California wildfires?

“Currently, [a local volunteer] is working in sheltering in Chico, California, near the Paradise fire,” Sharon adds.

Red Cross volunteers and supporters are also involved every day in disasters closer to home. In the summer of 2018, communities across Wisconsin were impacted by widespread flooding and storms. American Red Cross volunteers were there to provide basic emergency needs, including food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, and personal and financial items to those whose homes were damaged, destroyed, or affected by the floods. The Red Cross also assists residents who have been impacted by home fires. This past year, the Red Cross provided services after five single-family housefires in Jackson County, assisting nearly 20 residents in the process. In past years, your local Red Cross volunteers were there to provide clean-up kits, food, water, housing, supplies, and financial support after flooding in Black River Falls. They’ve also been there for the area after vehicle accidents or fires that have impacted local businesses.

In addition to disaster response, the Red Cross continues to reduce home fire-related injury and death through its Home Fire Campaign. The program educates the community about fire safety and offers free smoke alarm installations.

“Locally, we partnered with Scholze Ace Home Center for fire prevention month to provide up to three free smoke alarms

### Editor’s Note:

Just a few short months ago, we started working on article ideas for our local pages. When we got together to talk about the coming year, one theme stood out from all of the others. In 2019, we will publish articles that focus on the community. We will highlight volunteer opportunities in Jackson County.

It’s not a secret that there is a decline in the number of volunteers in our rural communities. It is our hope that by publishing articles about the great things that various civic and charitable organizations do for the community, that some of our readers may be moved to volunteer. Each one of us has some type of talent that we can share with others. Maybe you can entertain at a local nursing home, record newspaper articles for the visually impaired, or simply just show up to be part of something special.

We hope you enjoy reading about the volunteer opportunities in our area, and that it moves you to give a little bit of your time and talent back to your community. All the best in 2019!



to households in the area,” shares Kyle. “Community members could make an appointment for Red Cross volunteers to install smoke alarms in their homes.” You can still make an appointment at [GetASmokeAlarm.org](http://GetASmokeAlarm.org).

Nationally, since the program’s launch in 2014, the campaign has shown significant results: 474 lives saved, 1,504,547 smoke alarms installed, 623,973 households made safer, 1,238,810 youth reached.

The non-government agency also provides services for veterans and members of the military serving on active duty. Veterans expos provide comfort and care kits, while other services connect veterans with community resources and offer referrals. Active duty military members have access to emergency communications through Red Cross channels.

Blood donations and drives may be the part of the Red Cross that you’re most familiar with, especially with the active participation in this area. In Jackson County alone, 26 Red Cross blood drives are hosted each year, equating to 1,100 units of blood collected. Just one unit of blood collected is the equivalent of saving up to three lives.

“Think back to when someone needed blood,” says Kyle, “and how it was there during a time of need.” Since 1970, January has been designated as the National Blood Donor Month, which puts a spotlight on the importance of donors during a time when people may think they’re too busy to donate because of holidays or weather. Kyle says it’s also a time when donations are greatly appreciated, as blood supply levels take a dip.

“We need more eligible donors to step forward and donate blood,” Kyle adds.

If you’re not eligible to donate blood, you can still support blood drives by becoming a blood drive host site, or by volunteering to greet, canteen, or register donors at an existing drive.

Have you ever taken a first aid or CPR class? Were you a lifeguard? The American Red Cross educates community members through several training and certification programs: First Aid, CPR, AED, BLS/CPR for Healthcare, Babysitting and Child Care, Swimming and Water Safety, Lifeguarding, and Instructor Training. Many of these programs are offered and supported by local volunteers. “A lot of the coursework for the training is now available online,” explains Kyle, “making it more accessible.”

There are many great organizations to support in this area. Asked why the community should support the American Red Cross, Kyle says, “We affect people in so many ways and touch on all elements of the community.” The organization works with other community agencies, such as the Salvation



Local Red Cross volunteers host a fundraising event at Perkins Restaurant during Red Cross Month in March.

Army, emergency management agencies, schools, and community centers, in order to make the best use of resources.

The local chapter’s partnership with Perkins Restaurant in Black River Falls is a great example of making use of the community’s resources. Local volunteer Jim Kaphengst has organized a Red Cross fundraising event that is held at Perkins during Red Cross Month in March. “We choose a day to designate as Red Cross Appreciation Day,” shares Jim. Local Red Cross volunteers seat guests and serve coffee during the event’s timeframe. “Perkins then donates a portion of the earnings from the event,” adds Jim.

Your local volunteers help at veterans and other community events, install smoke alarms, assist families after housefires, support area blood drives, host fundraising events, and give presentations to community organizations. Some volunteers even partake in national deployments. However, volunteer opportunities are not limited to these services, as each individual has a unique talent to offer.

“As a local board member and volunteer,” says Wendy Trautsch, “I see firsthand how the Red Cross is there in times of need. It is so important to increase our local community volunteer commitment to help others in the Jackson County area.”

There are many ways to become involved with the Red Cross, from your financial support, to your time, to your blood. “While volunteering, I believe you get as much out of it as the person you are serving,” concludes Jim.—*Brandi Shramek, Executive Coordinator*

When you make a financial contribution to the American Red Cross, 91 cents of every dollar spent will go directly to services and programs. The agency will honor the donor’s designation for the contribution to be used in a specific area.

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Stop at the local office on 9 Main Street, Black River Falls. The office is usually staffed by a local volunteer on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can discuss volunteer opportunities and the steps you will need to take, including an application/interview and background check. You can also visit [www.redcross.org/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer).

Free mobile apps grant access to safety tips and disaster information. Users can monitor severe weather or find first aid information for their pet.

**Mobile Apps**

Download FREE Red Cross Mobile Apps today, in the Apple App Store or Google Play

MY CO-OP



## EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2019: Jackson Electric Billing Dates and Payment Deadline Change

Beginning with the May 2019 billing statement (April's usage), billing dates will be as follows:

- **1st day of the month:** All meters will be read.
- **6th day of the month:** Jackson Electric bills will be mailed. These are mailed from the bill processing center in St. Louis, MO.
- **10th day of the month:** Delinquent accounts (from the previous month) become subject to disconnect at the close of business.
- **11th day of the month:** Delinquent accounts (from the previous month) will be disconnected.
- **24th day of the month:** Due date for bill payment. Automatic recurring bank draft and credit/debit card payment transactions occur.
- **25th day of the month:** Late fees will be applied to delinquent accounts. Late fee is \$25 or 1.5 percent, whichever is greater.

If the above dates fall on a weekend or cooperative-recognized holiday, they will be moved to the next business day.

## TAX EXEMPTION FORMS

If your business qualifies for tax exemption, a Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate must be on file at our office in order for the sales tax to be exempt from your electric account. You can download the form at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com), under the My Account tab, or contact our office.



## There's time to participate in JacksonSolar LLC's pilot project

At the November regular board meeting, the directors approved the extension of the JacksonSolar LLC pilot project through the end of 2019.

JacksonSolar LLC sells and installs solar systems to assist in meeting your energy needs. If you're interested in participating in this solar energy pilot project, please contact our office at 715.284.5385.

## ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE WITH A SCHOLARSHIP



Jackson Electric offers a \$1,000 scholarship to each of the following high schools:

Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan	Neillsville
Black River Falls	Osseo-Fairchild
Blair-Taylor	Sparta
Melrose-Mindoro	Whitehall

Please contact your high school guidance counselor for scholarship requirements. Recipient is selected by the respective high school.

### Home-Schooled, Private School, and Open-Enrolled Students

A \$1,000 scholarship is also available to students in this category. Scholarship applications can be downloaded from [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com), under the Community tab, or requested from our office.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES FOR 2019

This year's rebates for the purchase and installation of qualified energy efficient appliances, lighting, heat pumps, electric boilers, and more are available. Visit [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) to determine if your item qualifies or contact our office. More details on this year's rebates will be announced in next month's *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*.

### Jackson Electric Cooperative's 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

Business meeting at 7 p.m.

Lunda Theatre in  
Black River Falls

Your annual report will be  
included with the March WECN.



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

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

