

FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

...and neither do the anglers!

Fishing would probably make the “fun summer activities” list for most people. That is why many fisher-men/women have been busy this last month getting their boat and fishing gear ready for that big day—Opening Fishing Day!

I will admit that even though I typically don't find myself going fishing a lot, it is one of my family's favorite summer activities. In my youth, I remember spending many Saturdays fishing with my siblings. We would ride our bikes to the creek not far from our house and spend the morning fishing in the stream. I don't remember catching a lot, but I do remember the fun we all had, and I'm sure that any fish I caught was bigger than my brother's fish. Just saying! As you can tell, we are a competitive family. What fond memories I have of those carefree days.

Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) is known for helping many youth and adults make memories like this. Fortunately for us, a local chapter of this organization is located right in our backyard—Hayward. This organization has worked hard to make fishing a reality for all anglers regardless of their age, race, gender, or disability. FHNB states, “Most of us think that going fishing is as easy as a walk down to a lake, but for over 56 million Americans with disabilities, it's just not that simple.” A variety of special adaptive equipment is available to help meet the needs of these anglers.

Not only is FHNB a member, but so are many of the staff and volunteers who make up this organization. JREC board member Walter Kruk recently shared that he has volunteered at the Hayward chapter since 1993, working in the medical area. He states, “I like helping people with a disability go fishing. The smiles on their faces from just being out in nature, on the water, with someone to help them bait a hook or help them cast to catch that ‘big’ fish is what it's all about.”

Many of the participants live in group homes, and FHNB is their biggest



outing of the year. They get to see old friends and make new friends, enjoy the therapeutic properties of nature, and challenge themselves as they try to do as much on their own to fish as they can. The entire experience is rewarding for both participants and volunteers and leads to many smiles and laughter.

Business Manager Kathy Overman shared, “Fishing Has No Boundaries has helped many disabled anglers get a chance to fish, for the first time for some. For others it is a chance to do something they loved to do and thought they would never have the chance again. I have been given an opportunity to help others not just here but all over the country and all over the world. With access to the internet, I have had the chance to help students in Massachusetts as well as rehab therapists working with their clients in Texas. Talking and sharing experiences allows us to work together to trouble-shoot situations to make life better.”

Many volunteers are working hard to get ready for this year's event. Staff will tell you that this is the “Granddaddy” of all the FHNB events, as Hayward is the home of the very first Fishing Has No Boundaries event, held in 1988 on the

Chippewa Flowage. Thirty years later, the Hayward Chapter continues to hold its event at the Lake Chippewa Campground on the Chippewa Flowage.

This two-day event hosts anywhere from 120 to 140 participants plus volunteers for a unique fishing experience that once was only a dream to some. All participants get to fish from a boat or pontoon. Awards and prizes are given throughout the weekend.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Duties include guiding, cooking, assisting participants on/off watercraft, fish cleaning, and much more. If you would like details regarding volunteering—or becoming a sponsor—please contact the Hayward office or one of its officers. JREC has sponsored this event over the years and is excited to be able to sponsor it again this year.

FHNB has 23 chapters in 11 states, and serves approximately 1,400 disabled anglers across the nation. Events run from May to October. Visit <https://fnbinc.com> or call 715-634-3185 for more information.

I believe Kathy said it best: “Fishing is for everyone, with so many more fish stories to tell.”—Denise Zimmer



BILLING AND DUE DATES TO CHANGE IN JUNE

Starting June 1, your monthly energy bill will change as follows:

The date energy bills are mailed and then due will change in June. These changes are in part due to the implementation of the new customer information (billing) system that goes live May 6. Starting June 1, your monthly energy bill will be mailed on the first of each month (instead of the 8th) and will then be due on the 16th of that same month (instead of the 28th). A 1.5 percent penalty will be assessed to all bills not paid by the due date.

Autopay Members Members on our autopay program will also be affected. Your payment will now be withdrawn from your checking or savings account on the 16th of each month, starting in June. Members who utilize their bank bill pay option will also need to change the check issue date with their bank to ensure payment arrives by or before the 16th of each month.

Calculating Your Monthly Bill An electric cooperative is one of the few businesses that allow their members to use the product and then pay later. This will not change, but the dates used to calculate your bill will. Instead of the bill reflecting the previous month's usage, it will now include portions of the past two months' usage. For example, you may be billed for the usage of June 27–July 27, bill mailed August 1, due August 16.

It's Easy, Convenient, and Free! SmartHub means you have options when it comes to managing your energy bill at Jump River Electric Cooperative. SmartHub provides 24-hour access to your energy account(s) and allows you to pay your electric bill in real time using your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Setup your new SmartHub account at www.jrec.com once you have your new account number. If you have any questions, please call us 715-532-5524.



CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ALLOCATED SOON

Members who received electric service in 2018 from JREC will receive a Notice of Capital Credit Allocation printed at the bottom of your energy bill statement mailed in May. This notice will provide your patronage, the amount of capital credits retired (paid out), amount allocated (placed in to your capital credit account), and the final balance in 2018.

Please note this is not a bill or a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill. The capital credit allocation represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative. Each year, the board reviews what can be retired, if any, to the members based on the financial state of the cooperative.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

Students currently in the 10th or 11th grade are eligible to attend the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) July 24–26. The annual YLC is an awesome event where high school students throughout the state develop their leadership skills, explore life on a college campus, and learn how cooperative principles can be applied to their daily lives...and it is FREE! Transportation and registration expenses are paid by JREC. To sign up, contact your high school guidance counselor. Limited spots available.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SAVES YOU MONEY

If you allow the cooperative to install a load management receiver on your electric water heater, you will receive the following benefits:

- **Receive a FREE 50-GALLON WATER HEATER** on all new construction or when replacing a gas or oil-fired water heater with a Rheem or Richmond (based on availability) electric water heater.
- **Receive a Rebate.** If you are not eligible for the free 50-gallon water heater, then you may qualify for a rebate by joining the water heater load management program with the purchase of a new electric water heater. Rebates vary by size and brand. Prices can be found online at www.jrec.com.
- **Receive Free Parts and Labor (subject to part availability).** If your water heater stops working, call JREC and we will be out to service your water heater within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays).

WATER HEATER PROGRAM REMINDERS

Members who have water heaters with a Jump River Electric Cooperative load management receiver will only be charged for parts and labor if the repair is plumbing or electrical related or is due to a dry-fired element.

Water heaters obtained under JREC's water heater program are to be used as the primary source of domestic hot water and not to be used as supplemental water heaters or storage water heaters. This will void the warranty. Repairs done on these water heaters will be charged a service fee.

If your water heater leaks and is under warranty, you will need to provide the serial/model number sticker to avoid being charged for the replacement water heater. This sticker is located on your water heater. If we do not receive this sticker, you will be charged for the replacement water heater.



FIND IT AT JREC.COM

May is electrical safety month. We have numerous safety resources on our website for both adults and children. Check out the Kids Safety Zone and find links to games and activities that will help them explore ways to be safe around electricity. You can also find more videos and electrical safety information online at safeelectricity.org.



INTRODUCING SAFETY SADIE

Help us welcome Safety Sadie to the Safe Electricity family! Safety Sadie will help kids understand electrical safety on a variety of topics by explaining safety tips in a series of short videos. The first video highlights lightning safety. A good rule is “When thunder roars, go indoors!” View the video and other safety tips at www.safeelectricity.org.



JREC linemen Scott Sedivy and Marcus Olesiak are shown here providing an electrical safety presentation at one of the 11 schools recently visited. Over 630 students learned about the hazards found inside and out, from exposed outlets to flying kites or climbing trees.

YOU COULD WIN \$50 IN OUR 17TH ANNUAL POSTER CHALLENGE!

Area Youth—are you up for a challenge? Grab your art supplies and participate in our 17th annual poster contest in tribute to May being National Electrical Safety Month. Create a poster that depicts ways to be safe around electricity and submit it to our Ladysmith office by dropping it off or mailing it to the address on the entry ticket below. Please follow these guidelines:

- Poster must depict how you can be electrically safe at home, outside, or at school.
- You must be between the ages of 5 and 14 to enter.
- Complete the drawing ticket and attach it to the back of the poster.
- Submit poster by June 3, 2019.

Three \$50 cash prizes will be awarded, one contest winner per age category. Age categories are as follows:

5–7 years of age • 8–10 years of age • 11–14 years of age

Winning posters will be featured in JREC’s local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.

GENERATOR Safety

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE’S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This can result in **potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.



Learn more at JREC
www.jrec.com

Poster Entry Ticket

Name _____

Member Acct. _____

Grade _____ Age _____

Phone _____

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith WI 54848



Get more renewable energy
for as little as \$1 per month
CHOOSE EVERGREEN



Evergreen energy comes from solar, wind, and waste-to-energy renewable resources. Your participation in Evergreen enables your co-op to secure additional renewable energy resources above and beyond government requirements.

Evergreen costs \$1 per 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) block. 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, contact Jump River Electric Cooperative at 715-532-5524 or sign up at jrec.com.



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Viasat

After you use the following amount of data, we may prioritize your data behind other customers during network congestion: Bronze 12 (40 GB), Silver 25 (60 GB), and Gold 30 (100 GB). Free standard installation fee available only to new customers. Minimum 24-month service term. Taxes apply. Speeds are "up to," are not guaranteed, and will vary. See store for more details. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time.

5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- 1. Power Lines** – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 2. Outdoor outlets** – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.
- 3. Pools** – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.
- 4. Extension Cords** – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.
- 5. Electric Garden Tools** – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.

Learn more at JREC
www.jrec.com

James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

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After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111

Find us on Facebook

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Denise Zimmer, Editor

Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Since 1938
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JREC offices will be closed May 27, 2019, in observance of Memorial Day.