


An Open Discussion with MAC and MJM Staff/Directors

On Thursday, Dec. 12th, MJM's Member Advocate Committee (MAC) met at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville. There were 32 guests in total, including Director Lehmann, Director Schultz, Director Johnson and Director Niemann. CEO Cutler headed up the meeting. This was the third meeting of the year and the last meeting of the 2-year term for the committee.

Back in September, Member Services and Communications Coordinator Brooke Gross sent out a survey to the MAC asking ten generalized questions that prompted them to give their feedback on how they felt the MAC meetings were conducted during this term. The Member Advocates gave excellent feedback and several asked to hear from the Board of Directors and MJM's staff. Since that was a hot topic for the Member Advocates, this meeting was an open discussion meeting with the Board and the Staff present.


The Board of Directors in attendance shared how they got onto the Board and what their current role is as a Director. Director of Engineering and Operations Joe Heyen, Executive Administrator Jen Peterson, Director of Finance and Accounting Daniel Drumeller, and Staking Technician Nathan Hatalla represented their departments and shared with Member Advocates how they serve MJM's Membership in different ways. Member Advocates then had the opportunity to freely ask questions.

Member Advocates were interested in additional services MJM might provide and gave feedback on suggestions for future Annual Meetings. Overall, it was a great discussion and gave Board of Directors and staff an insight as to what the Membership would like now or in the near future. In turn, CEO Cutler gave them an update on the status of the new headquarters, Operations Round-Up, the Jerseyville Logistics Park and the change in 2020 rates.

We wish to thank those Member Advocates that gave up their time to learn more about their Cooperative and share their ideas these past 2 years: Matthew Bechtold, Amy Box, Gerald Brand, David Crone, Clifford Eagleton, Joseph Fessler, Carol Frank, Michelle Franklin, David Hadley, Charles Huebner, Ton Kahl, Karen Klunk, Amy Knodle, Charlie Peterson, Scott Peterson, Dave Rathgeb, Scott Reichmann, Larry Rhodes, Allison Shipp and Brenda Stout. 



MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

264 N. East St., Carlinville, IL 62626

Office 1-800-648-4729

Pay by Phone 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Board of Directors

Chairman

Robert LehmannGirard

Vice Chairman

Paul Bartlett..... Brighton

Secretary

William R. HeyenGillespie

Treasurer

W. Kay Schultz..... Godfrey

Marcie TonsorJerseyville

Louis E. Johnson.....Shipman

Robert MooreMedora

James R. Niemann.....Litchfield

Dennis Stewart.....Nokomis

Staff

Laura Cutler.....President/CEO

Daniel Drumeller.....Director of

Finance and Accounting

Joe Heyen.....Director of

Engineering and Operations

Jennifer Peterson.....Executive

Administrator

Editor

Brooke Gross.....Communications

and Member Services Coordinator

Holidays observed

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day following Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

How to report an outage

Call 1-800-648-4729. Collect calls will be accepted to report outages. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

MJM Along the Lines (USPS 854-620) is published monthly for \$3.00 per year by MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, Illinois 62626. Second-class postage paid at Carlinville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to MJM Along the Lines, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.

Save the Date!


Saturday, March 7, 2020

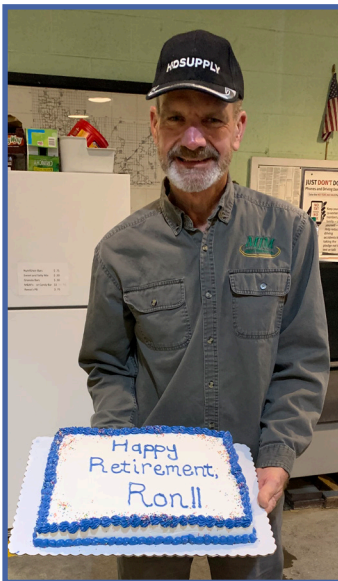
Roaring into the 20's!

Although we may not be having a prohibition party, MJM will be celebrating 81 years of service!! Please save the date for MJM's 81st Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 7th, 2020, at the Carlinville High School. This year's theme is "Roaring into the 20's with what electrifies you." In 2020, MJM will be seeing a lot of changes and we cannot wait to celebrate those positive changes with you, our valued Member!

Instead of receiving a newsletter for February, you will be receiving your Annual Meeting booklet. Keep that with you and bring it to the meeting for easy registration. This booklet will have important information that will be discussed during the business meeting.

As a thank you for your time coming to MJM's Annual Meeting, you will be receiving an insulated, reusable bag! These bags are one per Membership but the lunch after the business meeting is not! Bring your family as we will have children's activities while you listen to the meeting.

Be on the lookout for the booklet in February. There will be more details to follow. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our 81st Annual Meeting. 



AFTER 29 YEARS...



Ron Dugan will be retiring from MJM on January 3rd, 2020. He was recognized on December 11th at the all employee safety meeting with a cake and ice cream reception. Dugan will be further recognized at the employee Holiday Party on January 23rd.



Three DIY Efficiency Projects to Tackle This Year

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy—and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

1. Trim Dryer Vent

Level of difficulty: easy. Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape. Estimated Cost: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

2. Seal Air Leaks

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. Estimated Cost: \$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>

3. Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. Estimated Cost: \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. 🏡

2020 Rate Change

MJM's top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you. To achieve these goals, a decision was made by MM's Board of Directors to move towards implementing cost-based rates over a period of time beginning in 2018. The step approach is to make as little impact to a Member's power bill as possible.

Historically, utilities, including MJM, recovered their fixed costs by including them in their kilowatt hour (kWh) charge. Cost-based rates help to alleviate the dependence of kWh sales and recover the necessary costs to run the Cooperative according to each rate class. Each rate class has unique load and service characteristics that impact the costs for that class. This way, no rate class is paying for the needs of another rate class, which is fair and equitable.

At the November 26, 2019 MJM Board Meeting, it was decided to take another step towards establishing the realignment of the cost-based rates. In doing so, MJM is increasing the service delivery charge but decreasing the distribution energy charge, just as it has the past 2 years. This change is revenue neutral to the Coop as a whole. MJM is not projecting to collect additional revenue even though some members will see an increase while some will not. As shown in this graph, history of power purchased shows no sign of load growth over the past 10 years nor does it project to do so in 2020. The rate change is only redistributing the costs associated with serving each group of Members equitably.

kWh Purchased in 2009-2020



The Power Supplier Charge is a pass through from Wabash Valley Power Alliance, MJM's wholesale power supplier. In 2020, MJM will see a 1.37% overall increase. However, different rate classes will experience different increases depending on their service characteristic. The increase is primarily due to a higher Ameren Illinois Wholesale Distribution Service charge and an AEP (American Electric Power) network service peak load increase, along with transmission enhancement projects that are large inter-regional projects being built to improve transmission reliability.

As a Member owned not-for-profit electric Cooperative, we do not exist to make money from selling electricity but exist to provide electricity at the lowest possible rate. We strive at MJM to do just that! 🌟

2020 New Rates

At the November 26, 2019 MJM Board Meeting, a decision was made to take another step towards establishing cost-based rates. Cost-based rates reflect the cost of providing service to Member homes and businesses, regardless of how many kilowatt hours (kWh) you use. This moves the majority of needed operating revenue away from electric sales and puts it in a fixed cost. It is a more equitable way to distribute the costs associated with serving each group of Members.

A rate change will take effect on January 1, 2020. The bill you receive in February will show the billing period of 01/01/2020 – 01/31/2020 and be billed according to the stated rates below.

A rate calculator has been set up for your convenience at MJMEC.COOP for you to see how your bill may differ. If you don't have access to the website, please feel free to call the office and ask for assistance. 🌐

Single-Phase Non Demand Non-Heat (Rate Class 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 47.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.08616	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02497	per kWh

Three-Phase Non Demand Non-Heat (Rate Class 6, 7 & 8)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 105.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.08616	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02301	per kWh

Single-Phase Electric Heat (Rate Class 5, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, & 39)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 47.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.08616	per kWh
Heating Energy Charge	\$ 0.049	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02497	per kWh

Three-Phase Electric Heat (Rate Class 34, 35, 36, 40 & 41)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 105.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.08616	per kWh
Heating Energy Charge	\$ 0.049	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02301	per kWh

Single-Phase Large Power (Rate Class 9)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 80.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.049	per kWh
Power Supplier Demand Charge	\$ 9.30	per kW
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.03896	per kWh

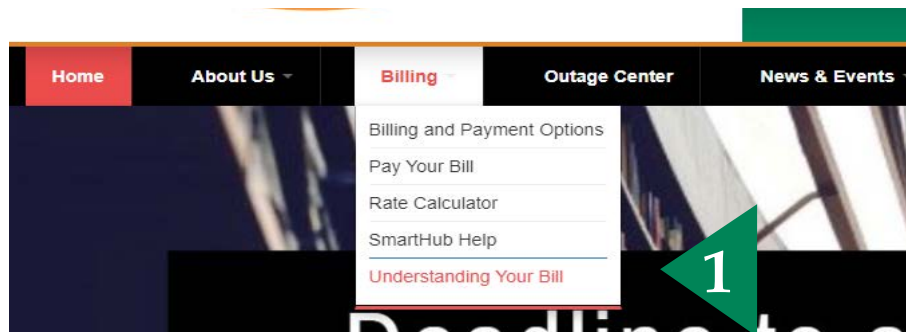
Three-Phase Large Power (Rate Class 10)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 123.00	per month
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.049	per kWh
Power Supplier Demand Charge	\$ 9.70	per kW
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.041818	per kWh


MJM Electric Coope

Visit www.mjmec.coop and try out our rate calculator to compare how the rate restructuring will effect your account(s). Just have a copy of your past bill(s) and follow the steps below:

- Step 1: Visit www.mjmec.coop and under our Billing tab select Rate Calculator.
- Step 2: Using your bill, select your rate from the drop down menu.
- Step 3: Enter your Energy Usage (kWh).
- Step 4: Click the Calculate button.
- Step 5: View the Rate Comparisons.
- Step 6: Click the Start Over button to return to the Rate Calculator.



What rate are you currently on?

Rate 1 - Single Phase 25 KVA & Under 

Energy Usage (kWh):

886 

(required)

Comparative Rate Calculator

Rate 1 - Single Phase 25 KVA & Under

Energy Usage (kWh): 886

5

OLD RATE STRUCTURE			
Charge Type	Rate	Chargeable	Charge
Service Delivery Charge			
<i>Fixed</i>	\$ 45.00	<i>Fixed</i>	\$ 45.00
Energy Charge			
<i>Distribution Energy Charge - All kWhs</i>	\$ 0.026930	886	\$ 23.86
<i>Power Supplier Charge</i>	\$0.08423	886	\$ 74.63
Demand Charge			
<i>N/A</i>			
Total Bill			\$ 143.49

NEW RATE STRUCTURE			
Charge Type	Rate	Chargeable	Charge
Service Delivery Charge			
<i>Fixed</i>	\$ 47.00	<i>Fixed</i>	\$ 47.00
Energy Charge			
<i>Distribution Energy Charge - All kWhs</i>	\$ 0.02497	886	\$ 22.12
<i>Power Supplier Charge</i>	\$0.08616	886	\$ 76.34
Demand Charge			
<i>N/A</i>			
Total Bill			\$ 145.46

Start Over

6

Difference Per Month	\$ 1.97
Difference Per Year	\$ 23.64

Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Selling a 1963 Singer sewing machine. Asking \$50. Also, selling longaberger baskets. Tons of sizes. Call 217-556-5361

FOR SALE: 20,000 BTU ventless freestanding gas stove with blower. Heats up to 700 square feet. Used once, practically brand new. Asking \$199. Call 217-851-5255.

FOR SALE: A set of two steel rims with radial snow tires for 2015 Toyota truck for \$100. A set of two aluminum wheels with snow tires for 2009 Toyota Camry for \$150. In Elsah, IL. Call 618-467-0079.

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 1-800-648-4729, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, 264 N. East St., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.

MJM Welcomes Toby Talkington



On December 16th, MJM welcomed Toby Talkington as the newest employee. Talkington will be taking over as the new Warehouse Person. Talkington comes from Carlinville, IL. He previously worked for Area Diesel out of Carlinville as their Sales and Marketing Manager. When it comes to his new position at MJM, Talkington is excited about all the opportunities that come with the job description and, especially, the move to the new headquarters facility. When he's not working, he enjoys fishing, barbecuing and his family. He has four kids, Kanyon, 13, Jocelynn, 10, Gunnar, 6, and Fieldon, 9 mo. Welcome to the team, Toby!