



MAC Meets for Energy Supply and Renewable Discussion

The Member Advocate Committee (MAC), along with a handful of employees and directors, met on Thursday, April 25th for detailed information on the current Illinois utility structure and the future energy outlook for Illinois. While supporting an MJM Member, the meeting was held at Joker's Wild Sporting Clays and Restaurant, just outside



of Chesterfield. After a delicious pork chop dinner, guest speaker Eric Hobbie, CEO of Prairie Power, gave his presentation.

Hobbie explained how the energy markets work and that Illinois is part of the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO) Energy and Capacity market. He explained that most states have capacity planning for investor owned utilities (IOU's) but Illinois does not. This means Illinois IOU's (such as Ameren and ComEd) own no generation which positions Illinois to be in a most volatile zone. Neighboring states have generation in their rate base. Capacity and Energy markets can't support existing generation let alone build new.

FEJA (Future Energy Jobs Act) was created to help keep supply in Illinois and partnered with significant subsidies on renewables. The fundamentals of renewable energy were discussed and although technology is advancing every day, technology is not up to speed with storing enough power from wind and solar to keep one house running. Moving to 100% renewable is intermittent.



If current legislation is passed in Illinois that would require the premature closure of coal and natural gas generation facilities, the question that remains unanswered is how and where will the needed energy be generated to serve

Illinois? Most likely states that surround Illinois would supply the additional energy required. Other states would operate coal and natural gas facilities, gain the jobs, tax base and other economic impacts in their states while serving Illinois the needed energy.

Costs versus rates were also discussed. Rate structures were developed over decades for good reasons, but distributed energy resources challenge the current designs and it can be confusing for consumers to understand unless they are educated.



After the presentation good discussion took place. It was educational for everyone involved. MAC member Michelle Franklin said, "The speaker and content were a great choice. I have been to presentations about "going green" but it always seemed they didn't list the challenges of putting it into practice. So informative."

To summarize, Illinois utilities are structured differently. IOU's in Illinois do not own their own generation, they are wires only. Capacity and energy for their customers is supplied by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) or an alternative retail electric supplier (ARES). There are currently over a hundred certified ARES in the state's competitive electric market. Illinois politics make the future highly uncertain and supply resources have new pressures in markets as complexity increases. Renewables add new variables to electric supply and demand.

As an MJM electric Cooperative Member, through ownership of Wabash Valley Power Association, there is comfort in knowing that through our long-term contract we have rate stability through multiple sources of power supply: wind, nuclear, hydroelectricity, solar generation, landfill gas, natural gas and coal.

MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Pay by Phone 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours

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



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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.

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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: 8" electric grain auger. Damaged by wind. Please call 618-535-6132 for price and questions.

FOR SALE: Fifteen acres, timber property with creek. Great location. All utility access. Secluded with nature/wildlife. Great for hunting, RV homesite or investment. Litchfield Unit 12 school district. Access off Illinois Route 16. Sorry, no contract for deed or hunting leases. Selling by original owner. \$6,650/acre. Please call 217-324-3869.

FOR SALE: 4-wheeler tires. Used 22x8R10 (2), used 22x11-8 like new (2), new 22x8-12 (2), new 25x10-12 (2). Also make for great lawn mower tires. Call 618-585-3159 and leave a message.

FOR SALE: N.H. 479 Haybine. \$2,500 O.B.O. N.H. 855 Round baler with auto wrap and auto oiler \$6,500 O.B.O. Please call 217-854-2570 and leave a message.

FOR SALE: Good Year P215/60R16" tire like new 5 lug alloy wheel -like new tread . \$75.

Also selling an Andersen sliding door and stationary door - 73" x79" it does have a bad roller but good glass seals. It's clear and not foggy. \$75 for both. Please call 217-324-386.

WANTED: Looking for a spiral outside staircase, approximately eight feet tall. Please call 618-786-2999

FOR SALE: Toy Hauler RV 2006 19 ft. Weekend Warrior sleeps six , one owner, always garaged , all the bells & whistles, 20 gl. fuel station, 4000 wt. Onan generator, TV & radio, outside shower & power washer, fridge / freezer, air cond. / heater, oven / microwave, decked roof/rack/ladder, spare tire, new tires, diamond plate front rock guard, stabilizer jacks, roll out awning , cargo bay measures 129x76x76. Call 714-768-1962.

FOR SALE: Trane XR 80, Natural gas, 80,000btu, Down flow, furnace, A-coil, and 3 ton air conditioner. Ten years young, recently serviced and in good working condition \$850.00. Removed due to remodeling.Call Joe at 217-414-6607

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.



LEAVING FOR VACATION?

What You Need to Know Before You Go

If you plan on spending time away from your home while on vacation, remember to prepare it for your absence. With the proper preparations you can cut electrical costs and keep your home and electronics safe while you are away.

The Safe Electricity program has the following recommendations to prepare your home for vacation:

Change thermostat settings before you leave. When temperatures are warm outside, it is unnecessary to keep your home as cool as you normally would since you will not be in it. You can either turn the thermostat up to a higher than normal temperature, such as 85 degrees, or turn it off entirely. When temperatures are cold, lower the thermostat to as low as, but no lower than, 55 degrees.

Unplug appliances and electronics. You will not use your computer, television, or toaster while you are away, but they will use your money if you do not unplug them. Even when appliances are turned off, many of them go into standby mode and continue to draw power. Unplug appliances and electronics to prevent phantom power draw, and keep your electronics safe if there is a power surge in your absence.

Adjust the water heater. In the average home the water heater accounts for 15 to 25 percent of the average energy bill, according to EnergySavers.gov. Water heaters use a lot of energy to store water at a warm temperature, which you won't need when you are on vacation. Turn the water heater to the lowest setting, or if you will be gone more than three days, turn it off.

If you plan on leaving lights on to deter burglars, put the lights on a timer. You can save money by not having lights on constantly and make it appear that people are home by varying the times the lights are on.

By Safe Electricity



Operation Round Up Celebrates 30 Years!!

The possibility of MJM creating an Operation Round Up program had been discussed in the past but never acted upon. The program was brought to the attention of the Member Advocate Group back in the fall and they felt that it would be a very worthwhile project to pursue. With the constant stream of requests for non-electric related support for the area MJM serves, the MJM Board of Directors felt the time to act was now. With a Round Up program, the Cooperative is in a unique position to be a catalyst for improving the quality of life in our service territory. This position will help facilitate Member dialogue and identify community goals and well-being.

What is Operation Round Up?

The Operation Round Up program was started by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina in 1989 as a way for Cooperative Members to give back to the community. The program has been adopted by over 350 rural electric cooperatives across the nation. One of the cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Cooperatives feel a strong responsibility to the people in the communities they serve that goes beyond simply providing reliable electricity. One of the most rewarding aspects of Operation Round Up is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbor helping neighbor that built our electric cooperatives.

How would this work?

Funding for Operation Round Up is donated by co-op Members like you who volunteer to round up their monthly electricity bill to the next even dollar amount. For example, if your electric bill is \$86.70, it will round up to \$87.00 and your contribution for the month would be 30 cents. Your donation is tax-deductible and never goes above 99 cents per month; the average donation for the year is \$6 and the most it would be is \$11.88! It is small change, but when you multiply that by thousands of MJM Members participating in the program, it delivers big benefits to local community and charitable organizations.

What are some possible uses for Operation Round Up?

The charitable program would be used to provide assistance to many worthy causes, not only to charitable organizations, but also needy individuals and families as well. For instance, it would benefit people and organizations for community service projects, economic development, education and youth programs, senior citizen programs, supplies and equipment for rural fire departments and emergency response services, food pantries, etc. The funds would not be used to pay Members bills, nor would they be used for political purposes.

When will this began?

We are in the infant stages of forming the charitable organization and ironing out the details but we wanted to give Members plenty of time to understand the program as it develops. More details will follow.

What better way to celebrate 80 years of service than to join electric cooperatives across the United States to help Co-op consumers reach out to worthy causes in their communities and work together to help others! That's the Cooperative way!! 

Concern for Community

While focusing on Member needs, Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their Members.

Planing Ahead for a Safe and Happy Fourth of July

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school and of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at MJM Electric, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.



To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety! We recommend the following safety tips:

- Supervise your grill at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- Always follow the manufacturers instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, MJM wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July! Please be sure to note that our office will be closed in recognition of Independence Day. 🇺🇸

By Meghaan Evans



Save the Date!



Upcoming Ice Cream Socials celebrating 80 years of service and get to know YOUR Co-op family!!

Here's what you can expect:

- \$5 Bill Credit Just for Participating
- Children's Games and Activities
- Booths on Specific Information
- 80th Anniversary Car Coaster
- 2 -\$80 Bill Credit Grand Prize Winners

August 8th
 PIASA
 MJM Piasa Warehouse
 700 Route 16
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

August 15th
 HILLSBORO
 KC Hall
 11198 IL-185
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

*This is not a meeting but a social event – bring the whole family!
 Children are encouraged to attend!
 MJM employees will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about
 the Cooperative or your electric service.*

Did you know?

Patience is a virtue, unless you are waiting for electricity. Claude McAfee, one of the longest serving employees of the cooperative, testified to that statement. He remembered how anxious Members were to get hooked up to the highlines back in 1940. "Some had been waiting for months for service," he said. "Many had purchased refrigerators, washing machines, irons, radios, and such in readiness for the day the current would flow through the lines. They would call my house at midnight asking about their chances of getting hooked up. Others were very accommodating. They would bring us lunch while working in their neighborhood. We always appreciated that." In September 1940, the Board of Directors purchased the Standard Oil Company building on North Broad Street for its headquarters. By 1950, MJM was serving 3,843 Members on 1,386 miles of line, tripling the number of Members. In 1956, the Cooperative constructed a modern headquarters, where we continue to operate today. MJM currently serves 7,780 Members on 2,118 miles of line. 🇺🇸



EDUCATING STUDENTS DURING ACES DAY



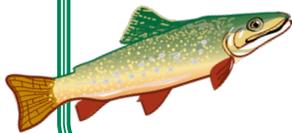
On Wednesday, May 1st, MJM was invited to attend Montgomery County U of I Extension's ACES Day. ACES is an acronym for Agriculture Consumer and Environment Science. Throughout the schools in Montgomery County, 5th graders had the privilege of listening to guest speakers demonstrate safety techniques with life on the farm. From grain bin to ATV safety, it was covered. Including being safe around electricity.

Brooke Gross and Charlie Peterson represented MJM and spoke to the Nokomis 5th graders. With a live demonstration board, they showed how intercepting electricity without safety precautions can be extremely dangerous. Students were also taught the principles of a Cooperative, how electricity is created and pushed through the lines for our Members to use every day. 



Retirement After 34 Years

On May 25, 2019, Johnny Schmid retired as a lineman after 34 years of serving MJM's Members. During an interview, Schmid said now that he's retired, he's still got plenty to do. Not only does he have livestock and horses, he tends to travel with his wife and enjoys fishing any chance he gets. He plans on spending time camping and enjoying the company of his three grandchildren. Schmid began as MJM's mechanic. He held that title for eight years, until he launched his career as a lineman. The year proceeding that, he had worked with the line crew during storms. With that, he bought his own tools for climbing poles. He said he was fortunate for Pete Evans and John Halder who taught him after hours how to be fully prepared for his first year in apprenticeship. Because of their help, he felt he was well prepared for his first day as an apprentice lineman. His favorite memory as a MJM lineman was traveling to assist Mississippi Electric Cooperatives with repairs after Hurricane Katrina hit. He said it was a real eye opener. Schmid made sure to say, "We have really good Members and they hardly ever complain. They're willing and patient with us to get the power back on."



Thank you, Johnny, for the 34 years you've served.
Enjoy retirement!