



along the lines

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www.mjmec.coop


MJM Represented at Illinois Telephone and Electric Cooperative Youth Day

On Wednesday, April 3rd, Communication and Member Services Coordinator, Brooke Gross, took ten students from within MJM's territory to Springfield's State Capital to participate in Illinois's Telephone and Electric Cooperative Youth Day.

Students who represented MJM were Erica Niemann of Hillsboro, Rowan Dothager of Staunton, Bethany French of Southwestern, Haley Pruden of Mt. Olive, Ciara Stalets of Nokomis, Ryan Eschbach of Jerseyville, Colton DeLong of Carlinville, Patrick Woolsey of Hettick, Blake Rentz of Litchfield and Katlyn Edwards of Bunker Hill.


Upon arrival, students enjoyed a breakfast and ice breaker games provided by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC). From there, students went to the State Capital building and had the opportunity to speak with Senator Steve McClure, Senator Andy Manar, Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer and Representative Avery Bourne. Students also had the chance to listen to a presentation given by Jessie White. Students were able to ask questions and even play the piano for him!

From there, students ate lunch and were off again visiting the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Old State Capitol. After a long day of touring, proactively speaking and learning, students were then interviewed for a chance to win an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for the Youth to Washington Tour on June 14-21.

Congratulations to Katlyn Edwards and Ryan Eschbach for being selected as this year's MJM's representatives. Ciara Stalets and Blake Rentz were selected as alternatives. 



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.



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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.

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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Kenmore trash compactor, white, model: 665.1350194, S/N 1CD3274235, Class F1, Volts: 120, Amps 6.5, Includes bags. Unit has been used for two years but actual age of unity is approx. 15 yrs. Works good. Asking \$100. Call 217-313-7334

FOR SALE: John Deere 1219 haybine in good working order. \$2000. Please call Paul at 618-741-4427.

FOR SALE: Square D 200-amp breaker panel - Model QO 140M200C. New in box. Menards original price is \$233. Only asking \$125. Please call 217-556-7511

FOR SALE: Old barn siding for DIY projects. Call 618-535-6132.

FOR SALE: : A set of aluminum wheels with snow tires for 2009 Toyota Camry for \$200. A set of steel rims with used radial snow tires for 2005-2015 Toyota Regular Cab Truck for \$100. John Deere five feet, 3-point finishing mower for \$450. 12-1/2 HP 38" cut riding mower for \$150. Four feet snow

blade for Sears lawn mower for \$100. A set of chains for sears riding mower for \$40. A set of wheel weights for Sears riding mower for \$40. Please call 618-467-0079.

FUNDRAISER: The 60th Annual Prairietown Firemen's Chicken Dinner will be May 19, 2019 from Noon til 5 pm at the Firemen's Hall in Prairietown (8451 Washington St, Worden, IL 62097). Buffet style dining with homemade desserts will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, carry outs will be \$10 each. The 60th dine in meal and 60th carry out meal will be FREE, come help us celebrate our 60th year of this fundraiser!

GARAGE SALE: 5th Annual Route 111 35 Mile Garage Sale. Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8th from 8 am - 5 pm. Follow Illinois Route 111 from Medora to Waverly for over 100 garage sales, vendors and food vendors. Donations are collected for Autism Support Collection, a local group of parents and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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.





Safe Planning, Planting and Pulling

When trees grow into or near power lines, they pose a threat to safety and to the reliability of your electrical service. Safe Electricity shares tips to help you avoid such dangers through needed pruning and planting trees in locations where they will not grow into overhead power lines.


Water, sap, and chemicals in trees make them able to conduct electricity. Be sure that no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches not touching power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added.

Severe weather can cause tree limbs to fall. If the trees are located near overhead power lines, they can damage the electrical wires that provide you and your neighbors with power, resulting in downed lines and power outages. Pruning is an important and necessary step in helping prevent these issues. Trimming trees near power lines is a dangerous job and best left to professionals.

In order to help maintain safety and electrical service reliability, your utility may either prune trees that are too close to power lines or will contact a tree trimming service to do so. This is what MJM calls Right of Way (ROW) Clearing. Although simply trimming a tree is usually enough, some trees that are at risk of damaging power lines during severe weather—like dead or dying trees or those with a shallow root system—may need removed completely.

If you live in an area where there is a risk of wildfire, keep in mind that it is recommend that you create a defensible space around the perimeter of your home to slow or stop the spread of a fire. Within 30 feet from your home and structure, trim trees to a minimum of 10 feet from other trees and remove branches that hang over the roof.

When planting new trees, take care to plan for safety. Pick the right types of trees to plant in the right locations where they will not grow to be a problem with overhead power lines. It is also important to consider the location of underground lines. Remember to call 811 to have buried utilities marked so that you can safely dig around them.

Make sure you know the expected mature height and width of the tree. Plant tall growing trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet at least 50 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Keep in mind, trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles, or too close to electrical equipment .





Annual Meeting Recap



On April 10, 1939, MJM became established at a meeting held by locals who had been working since 1935 to provide power to the rural areas. MJM celebrated 80 years of service on Saturday, March 23rd, at the Carlinville High School. This year's theme was "Back in Time – It's 1939" with the Wizard of Oz. When Members stepped into the high school, they were greeted either by Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Lion, the Scarecrow or Glenda, the Good Witch of the East.

After taking a short walk down the yellow brick road and into the Emerald City, Members had the chance to listen to Rockabilly Revival from Jerseyville. Rockabilly Revival specializes in Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash, Elvis and so much more. While Rockabilly Revival rocked the gym, door prizes were awarded, and children enjoyed playing in Munchkinland. Children in attendance were able to watch a magic show, jump in a bounce house, build their own MJM bucket truck, and enjoy bucket truck rides.

As the Annual Meeting began right at 10 a.m., Boy Scout Troop 63 presented the colors and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dustin White played an acoustic version of the National Anthem while Megan Dunn and Lauren Summers sang the lyrics. The business meeting then proceeded as normal.


This year, MJM hosted National Rural Electric Cooperative President Phil Carson. Carson gave an interactive presentation about how Cooperatives are a lot more than just a corporate setting. CEO Laura Cutler gave a presentation that went right along with Carson's. Her presentation really challenged Members to looking past what they know about a business and understanding a Cooperative's principles. Cutler also gave Members an update on the building's progress and revealed a design of what Members can expect the new headquarters to look like.

Along with hosting Phil Carson, MJM was proud to host Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer, Representative Avery Bourne, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC) Chairman Duane Noland and AIEC staff. MJM debuted an 80th Celebration Video that featured Members who remembered MJM providing power to their house for the first time. To view this video, visit www.mjmec.coop and www.facebook.com/MJMElectricCooperative.

Congratulations to Damon Burdell and Alexis Egelhoff for being selected as MJM's \$1,000 Scholarship winners. An additional \$500 was awarded as an Honorary Scholarship to Ryan Croxford and \$100 to Lindsey Miller, Bailey Lippold, Joseph Rosentreter, Grace Berry and Libby Roth.

Members selected to serve on the Board were W. Kay Schultz, William Heyen and Marcie Tonsor.

Once the meeting was over, the Board of Directors and Cutler were dismissed for a reorganization board meeting and prizes were drawn. Congratulations to Mary Ann Dunn, our grand prize winner of a \$300 bill credit. There was also a drawing for \$80 bill credits. Those winners were Steve Adams, Pete Olson, Charles Peterson, Stanley Hughes, David Bachman, James Dixon, Marilyn Best, Dennis Young, Herschel Chandler, William Jones and Frank Rothe Jr. The winners of the wireless headphones for children under 18 were Cody Croxford and Sayuri Owada.

Members were then dismissed for lunch. MJM had the privilege of having 314 voting members and 55 children in attendance. Plans for next year's meeting are underway and we look forward to hosting you all again next year. 

For Annual Meeting Audio and additional photos, please visit www.mjmec.coop.

"There's no place like [MJM]"







Often when the weather warms up, air conditioners get turned on, and electricity bills go up. There are ways to help keep your house cool without solely relying on the air conditioner, which could help keep more money in your pocket.

Cut back on your use of appliances (particularly the oven and range), reduce your use of hot water, and keep as many lights off as comfortable help to lower the level of heat in your house. Also, avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house, especially on the hottest days. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.


Improvements to your home can also help prevent the outside heat from having as much of an effect inside your home. Adding attic insulation so that it measures at least a foot thick will help keep the heat at bay. Also, installing a light-colored roof allows more heat to be reflected. For windows that receive direct sunlight, sun-blocking window treatments and awnings help keep the heat outside from having as much of an effect on the temperature inside your home.

Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.

Ceiling fans, floor fans, and window fans can keep air moving to help keep your home cooler. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) if you use a ceiling fan in conjunction with air conditioning, you can raise the thermostat about 4 degrees Fahrenheit without reducing your level of comfort. Also, if you have exhaust fans installed in your kitchen and bathroom, use them to remove humidity and heat when cooking or bathing.

For the heat that still manages to accumulate in your house, natural ventilation can help. According to NREL, natural ventilation works best in climates with cool nights and regular breezes. For natural ventilation, close doors, windows, and window coverings during the day, and open them at night.

By using smaller window openings for the ventilation inlets and larger openings for the ventilations, you can create natural cross-ventilation. NREL suggests making use of it throughout a larger portion of your home by making the air take a longer path between the inlet and outlet. They also advise that air from cooler, shaded outdoor areas provides the best intake air.

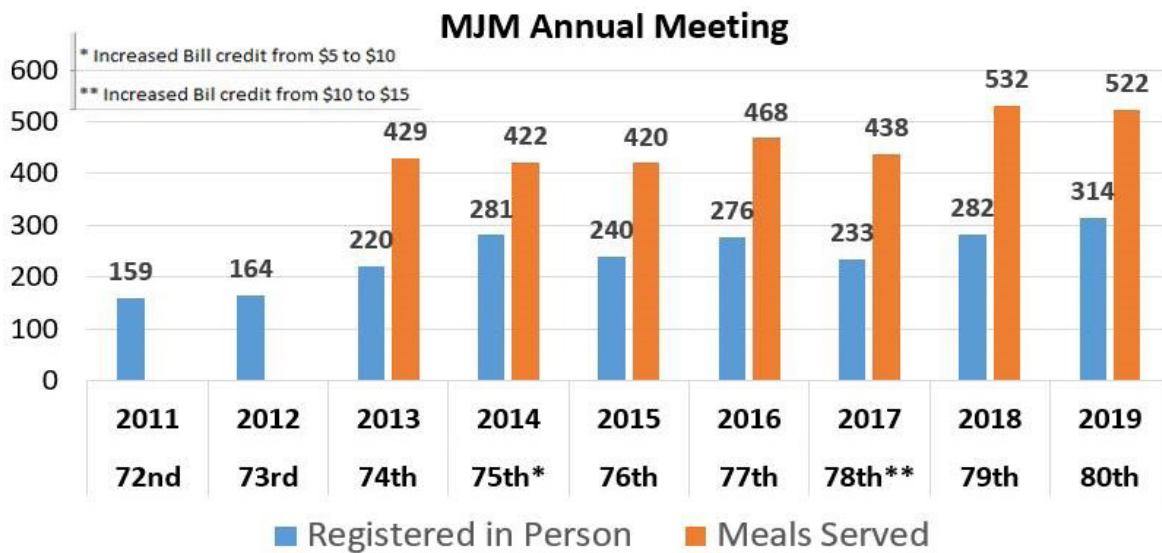
Help keep your home cool and comfortable this summer. For more information on energy efficiency and safety visit EnergyEdCouncil.org. 



Plans in the Making to Continue the 80th Celebration this Summer!!



Shortly after I began my employment with MJM, it was evident that to reach quorum of 150 voting members present at MJM's annual meeting, we needed to do something different. We have continued to try to make positive changes to get the Membership interested in their Coop and it is paying off. This year's 80th annual meeting celebration has been the best yet as you can see by the chart shown below. 85 of the registered Members attended the last four annual meetings; 94 Members attended their first annual meeting; and the remaining 135 Members are faithful annual meeting attendees!! Thank you all for your support in YOUR Cooperative!!



A closer look shows that Members living further from Carlinville aren't as well represented. Thus, the reasoning for MJM hosting the "Meet Your Cooperative" ice cream socials which we began in 2014 & 2015 and the Route 16 energy fair events in 2017 held at locations other than Carlinville. Therefore, in celebration of MJM's 80 years of service, we will be hosting ice cream socials again this summer. Details to follow soon! 🍦

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	% of Members
	Members	Members	Members	Members	4 Year Total
6 - William Heyen	39	46	49	60	17%
4 - Robert Lehmann	44	30	43	46	15%
2 - Robert Moore	42	34	40	44	15%
5 - Louis Johnson	32	25	37	41	12%
7 - Jim Niemann	34	27	26	33	11%
1 - W. Kay Schultz	26	26	16	29	9%
3 - Paul Bartlett	13	17	27	27	8%
8 - Dennis Stewart	27	21	27	26	9%
9 - Marcie Tonsor	19	7	17	8	4%
Total voting members	276	233	282	314	100%
Yellow - Top 3 Districts	Green - Bottom 3 Districts				



By Laura Cutler

Did you know?

In the past 80 years of service, there has been three women who have served as MJM Board Members. When MJM came into existence on April 10, 1939, Mrs. R. L. Comer of Carlinville and Mrs. L. H. Lively of Brighton served on the first Board of Directors. Only until recent was the third woman Board Director, Marcie Tonsor of Jerseyville, elected. She was just voted in at the Annual Meeting on March 23, 2019. Congratulations, Marcie! 🎉

