

Attend JCREMC's 2021 Annual Meeting from Home



JCREMC's virtual 2021 Annual Meeting on April 17 comes with a silver lining: it will allow our members to attend from home. Although the cooperative's Board of Directors and Leadership Team made the decision to go virtual due to the ongoing pandemic, our members who may have found it difficult to attend past meetings in person will now be able to attend online or over the phone.

"We always strive to meet our members where they are, and this year we're making that a reality as our annual meeting will be live-streamed into their homes," says CEO John Sturm. "Our virtual Annual Meeting was the best way to conduct important cooperative business while keeping everyone well, and it has the added benefit of convenience for members who found it difficult to attend past meetings."

Prior to the virtual Annual Meeting, the 2021 Board of Directors Election and other business will be conducted via ballots mailed to all members on February 25. Members who mail their ballots by the April 1 deadline will be entered to win one of 100 cash prizes and bill credits. Please watch your mail for the Annual Meeting materials and return your ballot promptly.

Inside the clearly marked envelope, you will find Board of Directors candidates' bios, a financial report, minutes of the 2019 meeting, your ballot, and a postage-paid return envelope. The ballot will ask you to approve the minutes and financial report and then vote in the election. After making your selections, simply return it by U.S. Mail.

To ensure a fair election, JCREMC has engaged an outside vendor to distribute and tabulate the ballots. Because of this, all ballots must be returned by U.S. Mail and cannot be accepted late or at the JCREMC office.

The virtual Annual Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on April 17 will feature the election results, updates on JCREMC business, prize drawings, and announcement of scholarship winners. Attending is easy. If you register in advance at www.JCREMC.com/2021AnnualMeeting, you will receive a phone call right as the meeting starts, and you can participate through that phone call and/or on the Annual Meeting Web page, www.JCREMC.com/2021AnnualMeeting, where the meeting will be live-streamed. You can also view the live stream on JCREMC's Facebook page or join in by calling 833-998-1729 toll-free. With so many options, we look forward to your attendance!

UP TO SOME

JCREMC's Operation Round-Up® Helps F

As executive director of Johnson County Senior Services, Kimberly Smith has a lot to worry about. "We have been assisting more than 9,000 food-insecure individuals, and some months it has surpassed 10,000," she says. One of her biggest worries was the organization's inability to provide fresh meat and poultry to their clients due to a lack of refrigeration. "We couldn't store very much fresh food."

Although cans of tuna and chicken, along with peanut butter and other staples, are always welcome, fresh produce and meat provide a more balanced diet for their clients.

All that changed in December when Johnson County Senior Services received a \$5,000 grant from JCREMC Community Fund Operation Round-Up® to purchase a commercial refrigerator/freezer. "Since we bought the unit, we received an entire cow from one farmer and were also able to accept extra fresh produce from the Midwest Food Bank and other programs," Smith says.

JCREMC's Operation Round-Up® is a voluntary consumer-member funded program that allows JCREMC consumers to work together to benefit their communities. When monthly consumer billing statements are prepared, bills of JCREMC consumers

who have opted into Operation Round-Up® are rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The extra change is placed in the JCREMC Community Fund to provide financial support for charitable causes and

non-profit organizations within JCREMC's service territory. The average consumer contributes about \$6 annually.

The grant, along with an additional grant to purchase food items (see sidebar), has assisted Johnson County Senior Services in filling a vital role in our community. Since the beginning of the pandemic, seniors have been urged to stay

home, making it more difficult for them to access nutritious food. "We are the only agency in the county that delivers food to seniors," Smith says. "Many of our clients lack transportation, and they are struggling to pay for rent and prescriptions. When they call us, you can sometimes hear the panic in their voices, because they are scared."

Thanks to the JCREMC consumers who have contributed to Operation Round-Up®, Johnson County Senior Services can now answer many more calls.

Johnson County Senior Services was just one of 17 local non-profit community organizations representing education, public health and safety, and community improvement to receive a total



A new commercial refrigerator-freezer, financed by an Operation Round-Up® Grant, arrives at Johnson Co. Senior Services.

THE GOOD

and Community Efforts

of \$65,233 this past fall from the JCREMC Community Fund Operation Round-Up®, which is overseen by an independent advisory board.

During the Fall 2020 cycle, grants were awarded to these organizations for the following projects:

- Humane Society of Johnson County - Memorial Gardens
- Creative Council of Franklin - Hall of the Brave
- Franklin Community FFA - Agricultural Center
- Greenwood Christian Church - Operation Care Transportation
- Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County - Raise the Roof Build
- Johnson County Historical Society - Hendricks Log Cabin History Sign
- Indian Creek FFA - Creek Cattle Company Feed
- Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County - Healthy Food
- Johnson Memorial Hospital Guild - Bariatric Wheelchair Mover
- Purdue Extension Johnson County and Johnson County 4-H - Makers Space STEM Kits
- Red Alert Robotics Parent Organization - Air Compressor
- Resources of Hope, Inc. - Teen Connect
- Johnson County Senior Services - Commercial Refrigerator/Freezer
- United Way of Johnson County - Christmas Angels
- Upstream Prevention, Inc. - DrumFIT
- Volunteer Fire Department Amity Community - Water Rescue Team
- Wall That Heals Franklin 2021 - Traveling Vietnam Wall and Museum

Operation Round-Up® Community Grant applications are available semi-annually in April and October. Spring 2021 Grant Request Applications will be available on the JCREMC website from April 1 through April 30, 2021. Learn more at jcremc.com/operation-round-up.

Emergency Food Relief Funds

According to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, there has been a double-digit percent increase nationally in the number of people who are food insecure due to COVID-19. To meet this need locally, the JCREMC Community Fund Operation Round-Up® Advisory Board voted to allocate a total of \$21,000 in emergency local food relief funds to the following organizations in December:

- Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County
- Johnson County Senior Services Food Pantry
- Johnson County Good Cheer Fund

Are You (EV) Experienced?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to own an electric vehicle? Now, with JCREMC's EV Experience, it's easy to find out by borrowing JCREMC's Chevrolet Bolt for a day.

Kevin Shelley, JCREMC's Director of Engineering, doesn't have to wonder. He owns a Nissan Leaf and has been carefully documenting its performance on an Excel spreadsheet since April of 2020. "You could call me an engineer," he says. "What I've learned is that with JCREMC's single-phase time-of-use rate, we're getting the equivalent of 135 miles per gallon."

Shelley says an EV works well for his two-car family because they also have a gasoline-powered car for longer trips. "The Leaf is really great for round trips of 60 to 70 miles although it can go much farther," he says. "It all depends on how hilly it is or if you're running an air conditioner." The Chevy Bolt has a maximum range of 259 miles and some Teslas can go over 300 miles on a single charge.

Although EVs can be charged with a standard 120V outlet, Shelley installed a 240V level 2 charger for faster, more efficient charging. The device also schedules



charging times, so he can take advantage of JCREMC's tiered rate structure. "It's all automatic, so I don't have to go to the garage and plug it in when rates drop at 11 p.m.," he says. "As more members adopt electric vehicles, charging during off-peak hours will

become increasingly important to managing demand."

For JCREMC members who charge when rates are lowest, electric vehicles can offer substantial cost savings without sacrificing performance. "Except for a muscle car, I'd stack up my Leaf's performance to any other car," Shelley says.

To take our Chevy Bolt for a spin, sign up at <https://jcremc.com/chooseev/ev-experience/>. Here you'll also find tools for computing potential savings along with information for comparing electric vehicles. If you already own an electric vehicle, consider scheduling an appointment with our Energy Advisor to ensure you're maximizing your savings by calling 317-736-6174. Members may even qualify for a free level 2 charger or a rebate on a 240v service installation. Email us at ev@jcremc.com to find out how.

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

JCREMC publishes **News & Views** as a service to our members. Content is also available at jcremc.com.

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