

# JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

# Directors plan open board meeting

**B**y reading this column, you're helping Jo-Carroll Energy fulfill the Fifth Cooperative Principle, "Education, Training, and Information," one of seven guidelines that govern cooperative operations.

Keeping you informed—you can vote for directors, understand how your co-op employees are working to serve you or learn about managing your energy use—is one of our most important responsibilities. An informed membership is a strong membership.

Jo-Carroll Energy members are encouraged to be active in their cooperative by attending the annual meeting, voting in director elections or visiting with co-op directors and staff at open houses and meetings held throughout our territory.

Our board of directors recently decided to give members the opportunity to see the board in action. The February meeting of the board will be an open meeting, offering another means of clear, transparent communication with our members.

The location for the meeting is tentatively set in the Galena Territory. Make sure to check our website ([www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com)) for further details on time, location and how the meeting will be conducted. Meeting guidelines are under development, but will likely include a time for member participation.

Plans currently call for two to three open meetings in 2013, to see how it works. The location of the meetings will rotate throughout our service area to give all members an opportunity to sit in on a board meeting. Dates of future meetings will be posted on our website, also.

During the past year, we implemented some different methods to reach out to and engage members with the business of the co-op. Maybe you attended one of our "Straight

Talk" member meetings, joined our Member Advisory Council or have simply checked our online outage map or logged into our new member services portal. We're working an updated website and expanded use of social media. These are all ways we're working to enhance communications with members and provide more opportunities for participation in your co-op.

Remember, this is your cooperative. If you have a concern or suggestion, feel free to call the co-op at any time and we'll be glad to help.

### Special message from your board chairman, Joseph Mattingley:

*It is planned that the first open board of directors meeting for Jo-Carroll Energy will be held at The Galena Territory Association Owners Club in the Social Hall at 9 a.m. on Feb. 27.*

*The open board of directors meeting allows the members of the cooperative to see the board in action when dealing with Jo-Carroll Energy business matters. This is a common trend within the cooperative world and it provides a level of transparency and openness to the membership.*

*To start with, the open board of director meetings will happen two or three times a year and will progress into an eventual constant timeline in the future. As co-op members, when the open meetings are held in different locations throughout the service territory, we will ensure that it is done as economically as possible.*

*We look forward to seeing any interested members at the meeting to audit the process.*

## Reader Prize

**E**ach month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

## Office hours

**Elizabeth Office**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Savanna Office**  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Both Offices**  
Monday - Friday  
800-858-5522

**For all outages and emergencies call**  
800-927-5254

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## For your information

### Your Board of Directors:

**Joe Mattingley**  
*Chairman*  
District 2

**Chris Stadel**  
*Vice Chairman*  
District 4

**Marcia Stanger**  
*Secretary*  
District 3

**David Senn**  
*Treasurer*  
District 7

**Martin Werner**  
District 1

**Patricia Smith**  
District 5

**Thomas Lundy**  
District 6

**Russell Holesinger**  
District 8

**Larry Carroll**  
District 9

### Office Hours:

Elizabeth  
793 U.S. Route 20 West  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Savanna  
103 Chicago Ave.  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 to 4 p.m.

### Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522  
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies and outages call:**  
(800) 927-5254

## Save the date!

### Jo-Carroll Energy's 74th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 13  
HCC West, Elizabeth

Join us for a hot breakfast  
served from 7-10 a.m.  
Annual Meeting at  
10 a.m.

# Resume of Minutes

## Board Meeting Minutes - October 24, 2012

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth on Wednesday, October 24, 2012. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda as modified and the Consent Agenda were approved.

**Chairman's Report**—The Chairman commented that there is much to celebrate in the successes of the efforts of Jo-Carroll Energy this year, including improvement of the resolutions process, successful meetings with Dairyland Power, involvement with American Public Gas Association as well as successful director training activities throughout the year.

**Dairyland Report**—Director Stadel commented on actions taken by the Dairyland Board authorizing the use of condemnation for its new project and joining with other generation and transmission companies to build a 161 KV line.

**AIEC Report** (President's Club Plaque)—Director Senn stated that Jo-Carroll Energy is the first electric cooperative in the state to have all board members join the ACRE President's Club. He commented on changes in the NRECA resolutions process reducing the number of standing committees from ten to three.

**APGA Report**—Directors Holesinger and Carroll will be attending the APGA Board and Strategic Planning Meetings and Gas Utility Management Conference.

**Monthly Committee Review**—Policy 111-Capital Management will be sent to the Policy Committee for consideration and recommendation to the full Board.

**CEO's Report**—The CEO reported on the following in addition to his written report:

- a. **Financial Operating Report**—CEO said the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of \$236,343 for September.
- b. **Power Supply Report**—CEO stated that the litigation with IPL is in discovery. He also advised that he had met with the Dairyland Power Executive Committee related to the existing power supply contract.
- c. **Power Plant Report**—Hastings stated that he and Kyle continue to consider reciprocating engines for production of electricity providing carbon dioxide to greenhouses.
- d. **Farmers Mutual Report**—The CEO stated that the Board of Farmers Mutual Electric Company (FMEC) will be submitting their merger recommendation to members at a public meeting for a vote on November 13th.
- e. **Metform Update**—CEO Hastings stated that things are moving very quickly with the latest upgrade at Metform.
- f. **COO Report**—Buros discussed several projects by members in which the cooperative is involved.
- g. **Culture of Excellence and Communications**—Sevey described activities progressing with the Member Advisory Council. She reviewed various activities related to October being the month of the co-op.
- h. **Member Services**—Skien reported that seasonal rates recently approved have been well-received. She reviewed several phone calls received by the

cooperative regarding a request for a special rate for seniors, adjustments in the billing cycle, and possible assistance in that regard from AMI.

- i. **External Affairs Update**—Cox reported on activities in Washington and Springfield related to Cooperative concerns. He said TCEDA is making real progress under the leadership of Al Griffiths and he hopes to be reporting about significant successes on the part of TCEDA by the end of the year.

### Board Issues

- a. **Review of PCA Rate Reduction**—Board approved to continue the PCA reduction through 2012.
  - b. **NRECA Course 945.1**—Under Scrutiny: The Board's Role in the Age of Consumer Activism and Transparency—Directors identified those attending.
  - c. **2013 Board Meeting Schedule**—Board approved the 2013 meeting dates.
  - d. **Accrual for Provision for Doubtful Accounts**—Board set a .0015 rate for accrual of doubtful accounts.
  - e. **Authorization of Christmas Gifts and Donations**—Staff recommendation was approved.
  - f. **Directors' Conference**—after discussion, no action was taken.
  - g. **Review 990's**—Peggy Kemp reviewed the IRS Form 990 and answered questions.
  - h. **Leadership Forum**—Dave Senn was selected to attend the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum for 2013. Merri Sevey will also attend the 2013 Leadership Forum.
  - i. **Approve Outside Union Contract/Approve NRECA Resolution for 401k match**—Merri Sevey reviewed changes to the union contract in recent negotiations. The changes were approved. The NRECA resolution on the 401k match was approved.
  - j. **Audit Committee**—Meeting with the Auditor—Chairman Mattingley briefly discussed a meeting of the Audit Committee with the auditor.
  - k. **NRECA 2013 Voting Delegate/Alternate**—Director Lundy was elected as NRECA Voting Delegate for 2013. Director Carroll was elected as Alternate NRECA Voting Delegate for 2013.
  - l. **NRTC 2013 Voting Delegate/Alternate**—Director Stanger was elected as NRTC Voting Delegate for 2013. Director Smith was elected as Alternate NRTC Voting Delegate for 2013.
  - m. **CFC 2013 Voting Delegate/Alternate**—Director Stadel was elected as CFC Voting Delegate for 2013. Director Werner was elected as Alternate CFC Voting Delegate for 2013.
  - n. **Set Policy Committee Date**—The Policy Committee meeting was set.
  - o. **Set Strategic Planning Meeting Date**—The Strategic Planning Session was set for March 13 and 14, 2013. Reports/Meetings—The Board heard reports on several matters and reviewed scheduled meetings.
- Other Business**—The Board discussed the possibility of holding board meetings in public in 2013.
- Adjournment**—The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

## Still time to file nomination petitions

Jo-Carroll Energy members interested in running for one of three seats up for election on the board of directors have until Feb. 14 to file petitions for nomination.

Board directors who are up for re-election in 2012 include: Districts 1, 2 and 4. Incumbents are Martin Werner, Joe Mattingley and Chris Stadel.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director, may petition for nomination. Petition forms can be obtained from Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or online at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com). Candidates must obtain at least 25 signatures of cooperative members from the same district in which they live.

Completed petitions must be submitted to the cooperative by Feb. 14. In order to qualify to have their names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the cooperative's attorney to assure that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors including time demands, education expectations and fiduciary responsibilities.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2013 Annual Meeting book and the April 2012 Hi-Lines.

### Jo-Carroll Energy

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### President's Club . . .

David Senn, Jo-Carroll Energy District 7 director and representative to the AIEC board of directors, presents board chairman Joe Mattingley with an ACRE President's Award recognizing 100 percent board participation at the President's Club level in ACRE for 2012. The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) is the political action committee (PAC) of the nation's electric cooperatives. Founded in 1966 by the approximately 1,000 cooperatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), it supports candidates for state and federal office—those in office now and running for office—who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their member/owners.



### Mattingley attends Chairman's Roundtable . . .

Cooperative leaders from various Illinois electric, telephone and agricultural cooperatives attended the Cooperative Board Chairmen's Roundtable sponsored by the Mid America Cooperative Council, Inc., Indianapolis, and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, in Springfield on Dec. 3-4. The roundtable included sessions and guidance from Dr. Greg McKee, chairman of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., Dr. Megan Gerhardt, assistant professor, Department of Management at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and Craig Adams, chairman of the Board of United Producers, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. The speakers provided tools to help board chairs guide their boards and cooperatives' management to make decisions that best serve their members' needs, while navigating through a variety of business risks and governance challenges.

Among the attendees were Joe Mattingley, board chairman of Jo-Carroll Energy (second from left), and Darrel Weber, board chairman of Rock Energy Cooperative, Janesville, Wi. (right), shown with Rod Kelsay, executive director of Mid America Cooperative Council, Indianapolis, and Gerhardt.

## Director Profile: Pat Smith - District 5

Serving as a director on the Jo-Carroll Energy board is an ongoing learning experience, according to District 5 Director Pat Smith of Galena.

Smith was first appointed to the board, and then ran for election. "I thought Jo-Carroll Energy is going to be my power provider, why not get on the board and learn more about it," she recalled.

One lesson she learned is that being a part of a cooperative is more of a personal experience than with other utilities. "I'm not just a customer, I am a member, and I have ownership in this co-op," she said. "It can take newer members a while to understand what a co-op is all about. We're a not-for-profit organization, and our goal is to enhance our member's lives."

"In my opinion, Jo-Carroll Energy staff from the CEO and senior staff to office employees and linemen all work diligently to make sure that our members are given the best service possible," Smith continued.

Likewise, the directors strive to keep up-to-date on the ever-changing generation and transmission business. "Our co-op encourages all of the directors to take classes in order to become a Certified Director," Smith noted. "The directors have a goal to become a Credentialed Director and then to receive their Board Leadership Certificate." **Jennifer Zink**

Smith has completed all the classes, as have most of the other directors, and all continue to attend additional training as it is offered. She added that Jo-Carroll Energy is forward thinking.

"In today's world there are many challenges facing all power providers," she said. "As the economy grows we need to be prepared to have enough power to generate new businesses, whether industrial, agricultural or other. We seek new sources of energy, such as wind and solar and



Pat Smith with her husband, Ron, and two of their grandchildren.

at the same time realize the value of natural gas and clean coal."

"Since I represent Galena, I was very pleased about the solar photovoltaic installation at the Galena Waste Water Treatment Plant," Smith said. The facility is interconnected with Jo-Carroll Energy, a Dairyland Power Cooperative member. Dairyland Power purchases the excess energy from the installation.

"This green project is one example of Jo-Carroll Energy's commitment to create the best environment for its members," she added.

Smith also noted recent projects in which the cooperative has worked with some of its larger power users, Rentech and Metform, on upgrades that will support increases in the businesses operations.

"We realize that economic development is important to our members and so we have taken a proactive approach through the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance to reach out to the communities to assist current businesses and encourage new startup businesses to come to our area," Smith continued.

Many challenges face the board, Smith observed, "Keeping the rates affordable for our members is always upmost in my mind. One of the hardest things I've had to do is raise my hand to raise rates."

She emphasized that Jo-Carroll Energy is always looking for ways to help members by having the best service while keeping an eye on the cost of power. "Our recent merger with Farmer's Mutual Electric Company is an important event for both co-ops and gives Jo-Carroll Energy the opportunity to expand our membership and open the door for additional sources of generation for our members."

A lifelong resident of Galena, Smith and her husband Ron, have been married for 51 years. Retired from the Galena school system where she worked for 23 years first as an aide at the primary school and later in the high school library, she keeps busy with family and volunteer activities.

The Smiths are parents of three children, Kathy Schmid, Lynn Deason, Ron Smith; and eight grandchildren, David (Samantha) and Michael Smith, Bryan and Caitlyn Schmid, and Max and Molly, Mallory and Alex Deason; and one great grandchild, Ryan Smith.

Smith was organist at St. Michael's Church in Galena for many years and has served on the Turner Hall Committee and the Galena Foundation Board, also serving as the board's secretary. Currently, she is vendor chairperson for the Galena Country Fair.

## Youth to Washington Tour applications available.

Jo-Carroll Energy is again offering two high school students the opportunity to participate in the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June.

The 2013 Youth to Washington Contest is open to all area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. Winners will travel by charter bus for an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C. June 14-21. Students create lasting memories and friendships during the weeklong tour.

The Youth Tour has taken students to Washington, D.C. for more than 50 years. On the tour students learn about cooperatives, American history and U.S. government.

They'll visit the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, among many other sites. They also take a special twilight riverboat cruise on the Potomac.

Students who apply must be sons or daughters of Jo-Carroll Energy members. Applications can be found on our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com). Applications must be received by March 15.

## 2013 energy efficiency incentives are here!

Being energy efficient puts dollars in your pocket by lowering your electric bill and it also qualifies you for additional dollars through our incentive program.

Our 2013 Energy Efficiency program includes incentives for both our electric and natural gas members. Eligible members can qualify for rebates on: electric clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditions, freezer recycling, refrigerator recycling, window air conditioning recycling and CFL and LED light fixtures; electric HVAC; natural gas HVAC; and natural gas water heaters, stoves and dryers.

To qualify for one of our incentives in 2013:

- Purchase and/or install a qualified energy efficient product in 2013.
- Submit required documentation as soon as possible as funds are limited. Incentives are in place through Dec. 31, 2013 or until funds are depleted.
- Submit forms and documentation by Jan. 3, 2014.
- Incentive forms and complete information are available at the Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or by visiting [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).



### HomE returns!

The successful HomE energy efficiency rebate program is back for 2013! "HomE lite" rebates are available until June of this year or while funds last. Take advantage of the program to make some energy efficiency improvements.

#### Available Rebates:

- Energy audit (by BPI certified auditor) – \$300 rebate
- Geothermal system - \$1,500 rebate
- Air-source heat pump - \$1,000 rebate
- Insulation and weatherization – rebate for 50% of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat pump water heater - \$250 rebate

## Does the kind of TV I have really make a difference on my energy bill?

Yes, it does! Sleek, flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. Some large entertainment TVs, when used an average of five hours a day, can cost more to operate than a new, basic refrigerator. And in general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws.

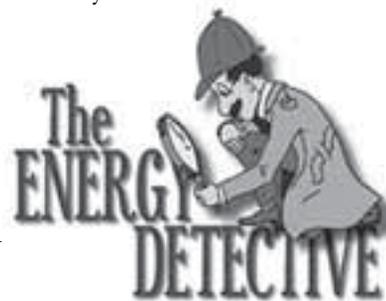
To keep your electric bills in check, here are some tips to consider before buying a new television:

- Display tactics. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. LCD TVs don't need much power to operate, 111 watts on average. LED units offer several benefits, notably better picture quality and thinner, lighter screens. They use slightly less energy at 101 watts.

- ENERGY STAR boosts ratings. Energy Star TVs on average use 40 percent less energy than standard models. Energy Star provides an online guide at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- Look for labels. In 2011 a yellow Energy Guide label became a requirement for TVs. The label compares the annual operating cost of a specific television to the plug-in cost of similar models.
- Tune in to savings. Turn off the TV and connected devices when not in use; reduce brightness by turning down the LCD backlight; turn on the power saver mode; and control room lighting.

Your television set isn't the only power hungry appliance

in your home. Visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) to find more ways to save energy and money at home.



#### Ask the Energy Detective

Do you have a question for the Energy Detective? Email [jscott@jocarroll.com](mailto:jscott@jocarroll.com). To learn ways to save energy and money all year long, go to [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) and take the home tour.

## Sand Ridge Project Update



Substation technician Jeremy Werner checks two 15MVA transformers at the Sand Ridge substation. Jo-Carroll Energy received delivery of the transformers in December. Jo-Carroll Energy expects to commission the transformers by June 1. They will support the new load created by a \$92 million expansion project at the Rentech Nitrogen facility. The project requires extensive coordination between the cooperative, Rentech, Dairyland Power Cooperative, ITC and others. Jo-Carroll Energy is slightly ahead of schedule on the substation project. Look for more details about the substation project on our website.



## Co-op Connections® featured business

# Glad Rags Resale Boutique, Stockton



Gloria Benson first fell in love with resale while shopping for her five children. The resale store in downtown Stockton served her family for many years providing quality and affordable clothing for everyone. When the previous owner decided to sell, Benson took the opportunity to make the business her own.

"I did not want to see the business close," stated Benson. She wanted other families to benefit from the resale store like hers did. Nine years later, she still provides quality apparel for the whole family at affordable prices.

Men's, women's and children's clothing are available in most sizes, including juniors and plus. Shoes, belts, hats, jewelry and accessories are also sold. The boutique is a dry cleaning pickup location and Benson also provides suit and tuxedo rental services with next day delivery.

"Check resale before you check retail," advised Benson. Many of the items Benson receives from her consigners have their original tags. She only accepts clothing in good to great condition. Returns are also accepted if you keep your receipt.

Cash, check, credit, PayPal and in-store credit are accepted. For repeat customers, there is a preferred customer card.

Her customers and consigners are what Benson enjoys most about the boutique. "I try to meet needs," she stated. Benson truly enjoys a bargain and loves seeing her customers find them as well. Helping her consigners make money is also exciting. It helps put money back into the local economy which benefits the whole community.

Check the tag of any item at Glad Rags Resale Boutique. The proceeds for many of the garments are designated for a specific charity. Volunteer Hospice of Northwest Illinois is one chosen by Benson, an active volunteer with the organization. If you want to donate your pre-owned clothing, you may designate a charity in which the profits can be sent.

*With your Co-op Connections Card, save 10% off your shopping order, 5% off dry cleaning service and 10% off Tuxedo/Suit rental at Glad Rags Resale Boutique. For questions or to consign, call Benson at 815-947-3081. Visit the shop on Facebook or at 117 S. Main Street, Stockton.*

## Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

## Safety after the storm has passed

*Winter storms leave behind hazards*

Unlike a tornado dropping from a spring thunderstorm, there is usually more time to prepare for a winter storm. Paying attention to the National Weather Service and local media can help keep you aware of impending severe weather.

After a winter storm has delivered snow, ice, wind, snow drifts, and sub-zero temperatures and power outages, do you know what to do? What steps should be taken to keep everyone safe and warm as recovery begins?

Here are some steps we recommend you take after the storm is passed:

- If you have lost power, contact your provider as soon as you are able so that they are aware of your outage.
- Check on neighbors and loved ones to make sure they are safe and warm.
- If you are using a secondary heat source such as a propane or kerosene heater or a fireplace, make sure you follow manufacturer's safety instructions and take precautions against unintentional fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Similar advice pertains to portable stand-by generators if using one for temporary power.
- Be on guard against hypothermia and frostbite. To avoid these, dress in layers, stay dry, stay hydrated and fed, and limit time spent outdoors.
- Stay indoors if possible, and use caution when venturing outside. Remember, downed power lines could be hidden under limbs or snow, and there is no way to tell if a line is energized. If you see downed power lines—stay away, and keep others away. Notify authorities as soon as possible.
- If you need a shelter, text SHELTER plus your zip code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area.

For more information on weathering a winter storm, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Savanna museum receives grant for geothermal system

A \$44,758 GeoAlliance grant was recently presented to the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center, Savanna, to help in funding the installation of a geothermal heat pump heating and cooling system. The grant program is funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) and administered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Grant funding is passed down from the association to Illinois cooperatives who re-grant it to qualifying members who receive electricity from them. The cooperative in this case was Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc., Elizabeth.

The purpose of the grant program is to encourage the use of clean and efficient geothermal systems to heat and cool not-for-profit and public facilities that receive electric service from Illinois electric cooperatives. The grants are awarded for one-third of the incremental difference between the cost of a traditional fossil heating and cooling system and a geothermal heating and cooling system up to \$50,000 per installation.

Geothermal heat pump systems use the earth's natural energy and that's why they are so efficient and so inexpensive to operate. During cooling months, heat and humidity from inside a building is transferred into the earth through tubing in the ground. During the heating months the process is reversed. There is no combustion with a geothermal heating system, but a modest amount of electricity is used to operate the circulating pumps, fans, controls and compressor, which along with the heat exchangers are the major components of the geothermal heat pump.

John Lecomte, Savanna Historical Society board trustee and local attorney, said the board was surprised to learn that the building they'd selected for the museum and cultural center, which originally housed a furniture store, had extremely high electric bills. "The store's monthly bill just for heat was as much as \$1,500 per month," said Lecomte. "We decided it would



*Shown at the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center GeoAlliance geothermal check presentation from left, front row, are: Heidi Weber, Jo-Carroll Energy manager of member relations and marketing; John Lecomte, Savanna Historical Society (SHS) board member; Jeannine Mills, SHS board member; Nancy McDonald, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives marketing administrator; and Larry Stebbins, Mayor of Savanna. Pictured from left, back row are: John Scott, Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. energy advisor; Jean Jones, SHS treasurer; Senator Mike Jacobs; Gene Wright, SHS board member; Carol Wright, SHS board member; and Keith Brown, SHS vice-president.*

be a terrible shame if we remodeled this building and created a beautiful museum for the community but couldn't afford to operate it because of the high utility bills. So, we decided to go with geothermal technology and pursued the GeoAlliance grant. Our utility bills for the entire building are now less than \$300 per month for heat and closer to \$200 per month for air conditioning. We're very pleased."

Nancy McDonald, marketing administrator at the AIEC commended the museum and cultural center for its diligence in finding the best solution for high electric bills, saying, "Geothermal costs a little more than traditional fossil fuel heating and air conditioning systems, and it can be tempting for a board to select the least expensive system because they are just looking at the cost now and not at the long-term savings and other benefits. As John said, the facility's electric bills were reduced from nearly \$1,500 to under \$300 per month. Simple math shows that the payback for the extra up-front costs will be short and the savings will be considerable in the long run."

Heidi Weber, manager of member relations and marketing at Jo-Carroll Energy, said the member-owned cooperative was pleased to have played a part helping to obtain the grant, which enriched not only the museum, but also the Savanna community.

"The ICECF appreciates the leadership of AIEC and the Savanna Museum

and Cultural Center on this effort. The museum will benefit from improved comfort in its new facility, lower operating and maintenance costs and reduced energy use, leading to less pollution in Illinois communities," said Dennis O'Brien, Executive Director of ICECF. "At the same time, organizations like the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center can offer their peers, and the wider commercial sector, proof of the energy and maintenance savings during a building's lifecycle. These benefits far outweigh the initial capital investment for installing a geothermal system."

ICECF invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts throughout Illinois. Facilities not serviced by Illinois electric cooperatives can apply directly to ICECF for geothermal system funding. Information on the foundation's other grant programs can be found on its website at [www.illinoiscleanenergy.org](http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org).

GeoAlliance grant funding will be available until June 30, 2013, or until the funding has been depleted prior to that date. For more information about the GeoAlliance grant program, contact your local electric cooperative. You can also call Nancy McDonald at the AIEC at (217) 241-7954 or e-mail her at [nmcdonald@aiec.coop](mailto:nmcdonald@aiec.coop), or visit the association's website at [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop). A list of application criteria and a downloadable grant application can be found on the website.