

# JO-CARROLL

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

### The cooperative purpose

We often talk about the cooperative difference and advantage, the core principles and business model that set a cooperative apart from other kinds of utilities. We serve members instead of customers; we're not-for-profit; we return excess revenues to members in the form of capital credits.

At the heart of it, our main difference is our purpose. Our mission today is the same as it's always been—to improve the quality of life for our members.

Jo-Carroll Energy exists to power communities and empower you, our members, to improve your quality of life. The cooperative business model offers the perfect tool for tackling tasks too big for one person to handle alone.

A few of you may remember our beginnings from your younger days—back when life was hard, before cooperation changed the landscape of the communities we serve. Think about the impact electricity made in rural areas 75 years ago. Things like running water, lights and stored food became possible—and with those leaps, our ancestors' lives were given new opportunities. Farm production jumped.

We're proof that when folks unite with a single focus, we can bring dreams to reality. Our purpose—powering our communities and empowering you, our members—can make life better in northwest Illinois.

Those of you who remember know full well the power of neighbors uniting

behind a common purpose. Our younger and newer members have only heard about when this area rolled up its sleeves and worked together to get the lights on.

Our job is not done. That's why we take on projects that improve our infrastructure and bring you more services, like Sand Prairie Wireless broadband internet. Some projects support the work of others who are expanding and growing their businesses. Rebuilding of our Sand Ridge and Metform substations are prime examples.

Jo-Carroll Energy is more than a power provider. Working together with members and organizations like TCEDA, we are still building our communities, bringing dreams to reality, and giving youth a better future. We're at work in our communities suggesting energy efficiency solutions to members. In our schools we provide energy efficiency and safety education to younger students, and provide scholarships and educational opportunities for our high schoolers.

How are you working with your neighbors, your fellow co-op members to boost our communities? We'd love to hear what you're working on. We're here to support your efforts. Remember, co-ops can be a mechanism you use to make life better.

We exist today because 74 years ago co-op members like yourselves believed they could turn darkness into light. We're here to power our communities and empower our members to work cooperatively to improve the quality of your lives.

### Reader Prize

Each 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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## Board leadership program



*Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors chairman Joseph Mattingley (right) congratulates District 7 director David Senn for receiving his Board Leadership Program certificate. The program offers advanced courses for cooperative directors and can be earned after completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and completing 10 credits.*

## For your information

### Your Board of Directors:

**Joseph 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

# Resume of Minutes

## Regular Board Meeting • December 18, 2012

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth on Wednesday, December 18, 2012. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda as modified and the Consent Agenda were approved.

**Presentation by Jack Clark and Jay Bartlett–Prairie Power, Inc.**–The Board heard a presentation from Jay Bartlett, President and CEO, and Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board of Directors, of Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), the power supplier for Farmers Mutual Electric Company.

**Member Hearing–Mark Turczynski**–The Board held a hearing at the request of Member Turczynski on his qualifications to be a candidate for the board. The Directors found him qualified.

**Budget**–CFO Heidenreich presented on the 2013 budget and answered directors' questions regarding various issues raised in the presentation. After discussion, the final 2013 budget was approved.

**Chairman's Report**–The Chairman commented on his satisfaction with the merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company. He again commented on his concerns about possible confusion of members with the decision of the Jo Daviess County Board to proceed with a vote on aggregation. He urged every effort to assist members in better understanding this process.

**Dairyland Report**–Director Werner attended the Dairyland meeting, and said the meeting was relatively short. The dry cast storage facility is completed. The CEO commented on recent strategic planning sessions and the budget meeting.

**APGA Report**–Director Carroll commented on the report added to the board packet. He said that the strategic planning process for APGA did not work very well this year and he hoped for better things down the road.

**AIEC Report**–Director Senn reported on parting comments of retiring NRECA CEO, Glenn English.

### Monthly Committee Review

**a. (i) Policy Committee Report**–Board Policy 112 entitled Membership in Civic Community Organizations was approved with no revisions. Changes to Jo-Carroll Energy Bylaws at Article IV, Section 2 entitled Director Districts as recommended by the Policy Committee to be recommended to the members was approved. Changes to the Jo-Carroll Energy Bylaws at Article IV, Section 3 entitled Board to be recommended to the members was approved. Changes to Board Policy 111 entitled Capital Management and changes to Board Policy 115 entitled Member Requests for Attendance and Participation – Regular Meetings were approved.

**b. Audit Committee Report** – Director Senn reported on the meeting with the new auditing firm.

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

**a. Financial Operating Report**–He reported the Cooperative had unaudited margins of -\$116,421 for November.

**b. Power Supply Report**–Hastings stated that he was continuing to work on issues related to power supply.

**c. Power Plant Report**–He said the effort continues to protect members from the volatility

of power costs.

**d. Farmers Mutual Report**–The merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company is moving forward.

**e. Metform Update**–CEO Hastings commented that Metform continues to work on its contemplated upgrades.

**f. Rentech Update**–The CEO stated that the Rentech project continues.

**g. COO Report**–No comments provided beyond the written report.

**h. Culture of Excellence and Communications**–Sevey described ongoing efforts at the Cooperative to continue to build a Culture of Excellence and Communications at Jo-Carroll Energy.

**i. Member Services**–Skien reviewed the new website. She stated the Connections Card continues to be very popular. She also described many new self-help tools provided to members in the website.

**j. External Affairs Update**–Cox reported on economic development efforts by the Cooperative, the changed structure of TCEDA with Lisa McCarthy providing direct communication with members on behalf of TCEDA.

### Board Issues

**a. Prairie Power, Inc. Agreements–Farmers Mutual Merger**–The membership application form for PPI and the agreement to assume Farmers Mutual Electric Company's role with PPI was approved.

**b. Attendance–one day PPI orientation session**–All directors will attend a session to be held in Elizabeth.

**c. Approve Auditor for Benefits Audit**–CliftonLarsonAllen was approved as auditor for benefits.

**d. Approve Auditor for Farmers Mutual Asset Valuation**–Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP was approved to complete a valuation study of the Farmers Mutual Electric Company assets.

**e. Resolution for IPEA Contract**–Approved the Illinois Public Energy Agency contract.

**f. Names of Nominees for the Election Committee**–Directors will provide three names as required.

**g. NRECA Courses 2600.1, 2610.1 and 955.1**–Attendance will be coordinated later.

**h. Discuss December 2013 Board Meeting Dates**–The December 2013 Board Meeting will be held on December 4, 2013 and a budget meeting will also be held on December 18, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

**• Public Board Meeting–February** – The Board agreed to hold a public board meeting at the regular February board meeting date to be held at The Galena Territory Association.

**• Presentation of BLC Certificate** – Director Senn was presented with his Board Leadership Certificate and Chairman Mattingley was presented with the AIEC President's Club Plaque.

**• Consideration of Matters Discussed During Executive Session** – Approved contract obligations for the CEO.

**Reports/Meetings**–The Board heard reports on several matters and reviewed scheduled meetings.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

## Mark your calendar for the 2013 Annual Meeting

Jo-Carroll Energy's Annual Meeting will be held at Highland Community College West in Elizabeth on Saturday, April 13.

Annual meeting registration will be from 8 to 10 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10 a.m. in the gym. Make sure to bring the registration card from this year's Annual Report (mailed in March) to the meeting. Registration cards for all members attending the annual business meeting are entered into a drawing in which we'll be giving away 10, \$25 bill credits and four \$50 bill credits. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the meeting. Members must be present to win.

At the business meeting, you'll learn about Jo-Carroll Energy's accomplishments for 2012 and plans for the future. You'll vote on bylaw amendments and hear the results of the 2013 board elections.

A hot breakfast will be served before the meeting from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building. After breakfast, take time to visit the displays and exhibits about many cooperative services and products along with special displays by many of our Co-op Connections Card businesses.

Jo-Carroll Energy is YOUR cooperative. We invite you to take this opportunity to meet your directors and participate in the business of your cooperative by attending the annual meeting!

### Attendance Prize

Every member attending the 2013 annual meeting receives a

**\$10 bill credit!**

## Three co-op board seats up for election

Democratic member control is the second guiding principle that cooperatives follow. Your Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors is elected by the membership. Cooperative members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote.

Directors will be elected for Districts 1, 2 and 4 this year. Only members who live in one of the three districts will receive ballots, if there is more than one candidate for one of these districts. For districts with only one candidate, election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting. Ballots, when necessary, are sent by a special mailing in late March. All members will receive the 2013 Annual Report.

Profiles of the candidates will be included in the annual report,

with the ballots and in the April Hi-Lines.

Each vote counts, so please remember to return your ballot. When completing your ballot, please remember the following:

- The ballot MUST be filled out by the person under whom the membership is listed.
- All ballots MUST be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 12.
- The return envelope MUST be signed or the ballot is invalid.

Strict anonymity is enforced with tallying the ballots. By signing the return envelope, your ballot is in no way associated with your account.

Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at either of the cooperative's offices in Elizabeth or Savanna. Ballots are counted by the Credentials and Election Committee.



*A bylaw change in 2011 provides that ballots be mailed to members only in districts where more than one candidate has been nominated. In districts with only one candidate, election will be by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting.*

## Members, employees help local food pantries



Jo-Carroll Energy employees and members demonstrated the cooperative principle of commitment to community with their participation in a recent food drive sponsored by the cooperative. Approximately 855 pounds of nonperishable food, paper goods and other items were distributed to nine food pantries within Jo-Carroll Energy's service territory. In addition, the board of directors approved donations of \$555 to each of the pantries. Receiving donations were: Albany Food Pantry, East Dubuque Food Pantry, Elizabeth Food Basket, Erie Food Pantry, Hanover Food Pantry, The Helping Hands Food Pantry (Chadwick/Milledgeville), Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food pantry, Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry and the United Churches of Galena Food Pantry. Pictured above are volunteers with the Erie Food Pantry Jean Spaid (left) and Louise Wildt (right) with Heidi Weber, Jo-Carroll Energy manager of marketing and member relations (center). For more photos visit the gallery on our Facebook page.

# Unclaimed Capital Credits

As a Jo-Carroll Energy member, you have a share in your cooperative. As a cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy does not technically earn profits. Any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered "margins". And, one of

the benefits of being a co-op member-owner is sharing in the margins in the form of capital credits.

We mail capital credit checks in December, and over the years several have been returned as undeliverable. Starting this month we

are publishing a list of the names of those of you who have unclaimed capital credits. You also may search a complete list on our website. If you find your name on the list, please call 800-858-5522 or email [info@jocarroll.com](mailto:info@jocarroll.com).

Evanson Jay	Addison Il	Berry Mary L	Aurora Il	De Jong Kornelis	Bradenton Fl
Henning John	Algonquin Il	Borkowicz Robert L Carole	Aurora Il	Elderkin Ernest E	Broadview Il
Henriksen Arne A Sr Jayne	Algonquin Il	Gruesner Robert M	Aurora Il	Newman Henry F Dorothy	Broadview Il
Spinda Dave	Alpharetta Ga	Stoudt Maryland	Aurora Il	Murphy Curtis Eva	Broken Bow Nb
Hansen Robert C	Amasa Mi	Pixley Raymond	Austin Tx	Atkinson John W Estate	Buffalo Grove Il
Erickson Wallace Dorothy	Anaheim Ca	Simon Honora	Austin Tx	Lawrence Howard	Buffalo Grove Il
Walters Peter	Anaheim Hills Ca	Scott Steven	Baggitt Ny	Serva Joanne	Burbank Il
Miller Geoffrey	Anamosa Ia	Dengler Paul	Barrington Il	Mosby James F Carol	Burr Ridge Il
Wickler Robert	Angier Nc	Miller Philip C	Bartlett Il	Wand Mel	Cabot Ar
Whitworth Linda	Apo Ny	Reed Jess	Batavia Il	Moser Dorothea L	Caledonia Mn
De La Torriente Donna Y	Apple River Il	Lambros James C	Beaumont Tx	Dore Maurice J	Calumet City Il
Dillon Tom	Apple River Il	Schmitt Theresa	Belgrade Mt	Mattes Frank Estate	Camdenton Mo
Hensel Larry Melodie	Apple River Il	Brown Larry	Bellair Shore Fl	Jones Tony	Carbondale Il
Hepperly John T	Apple River Il	Jackson Randy	Belleville Il	Debellis Dennis	Carol Stream Il
Hicks Pamela	Apple River Il	Bennett Ronald Gwen	Bellevue Ia	Vance Clarence	Carpentersville Il
Hoban Dennis	Apple River Il	O'Brien Neal	Bellevue Ia	Gunning Stephen B	Cary Il
Jones Pete Lynne	Apple River Il	Odonnell Bill	Bellevue Ia	Ross George R Ann	Cary Il
Paisley David	Apple River Il	Leininger Charles S	Bellevue Wa	Olson Ron	Cedar Rapids Ia
Palmer Barbara R W	Apple River Il	Brennan Michael	Bellwood Il	Storla Duwayne A Patricia	Cedar Rapids Ia
Peyatt William	Apple River Il	Ryniewicz Zonia M	Beloit Wi	Balsiger Carol	Cedarville Il
Port Curtis Janice	Apple River Il	Anderson Scott C	Belvidere Il	Busker Paul L	Cedarville Il
Schmid Kurt	Apple River Il	Robbins, W C	Benton Wi	Beyer Lloyd A	Chadwick Il
United 1st Mortgage	Apple River Il	Waldon James M Ii	Bessemer Al	Decker Ronald J Cheryl D	Chadwick Il
Young Arthur E Rosalind	Apple River Il	Crawford Walter L Margery J	Bettendorf Ia	Haag John H Estate	Chadwick Il
Gates Colleen R	Apple Valley Ca	Honda Dr Haruyoshe	Bettendorf Ia	Hartman Thomas R Ruth	Chadwick Il
Williams Wayne R Estate	Ardadia Fl	Misner Edeltraud	Bettendorf Ia	Hopfenberger Gary	Chadwick Il
Carroll Phyllis A	Arlington Heights Il	Thompson Kimball	Bettendorf Ia	Kaufman Steve S	Chadwick Il
Clarke F Russelljeanette M	Arlington Heights Il	Robinson Sheldon C Betty	Big Pine Key Fl	Krueger Donald M Frances	Chadwick Il
Dub Marcy	Arlington Heights Il	Murry Albert B	Billwood Il	Maxwell Kenneth	Chadwick Il
Flanigan Mary Lou	Arlington Heights Il	Deitz Richard G Peggy	Bloomington Il	Newcomer Larry E Sandra	Chadwick Il
Sansone Philip Phyllis	Arlington Heights Il	Berkery Timothy	Bolingbrook Il	Nowak Melvin Carol	Chadwick Il
Streckert Marjorie M	Arlington Heights Il	Mcelroy Michael J Cathy	Bolingbrook Il	Schneider Michael	Chadwick Il
Wambach Joseph	Arlington Heights Il	Robertson Don	Bolingbrook Il	Schreiner Edward Anna	Chadwick Il
Williams Robert C	Arlington Heights Il	Ariss Audrey	Boscobel Wi	Weber Lorna R	Chadwick Il
Cook Earl	Asotin Wa	Thygesen Irving Hazel	Boulder Co	Stotz Robert J	Champaign Il
Avram Dwight	Aurora Il	Winiacki Waltraut	Boynton Beach Fl	Currens Ruth	Champlin Mn
				Cox Thomas S Elizabeth	Cheyenne Wy



## Board Member Profile: Tom Lundy, District 6

*Note: This is the sixth in a nine-part series of articles focusing on the men and women who represent our members on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors.*

As the longest currently-serving board member, Tom Lundy has seen quite a few changes at the cooperative during his tenure as the director from District 6.

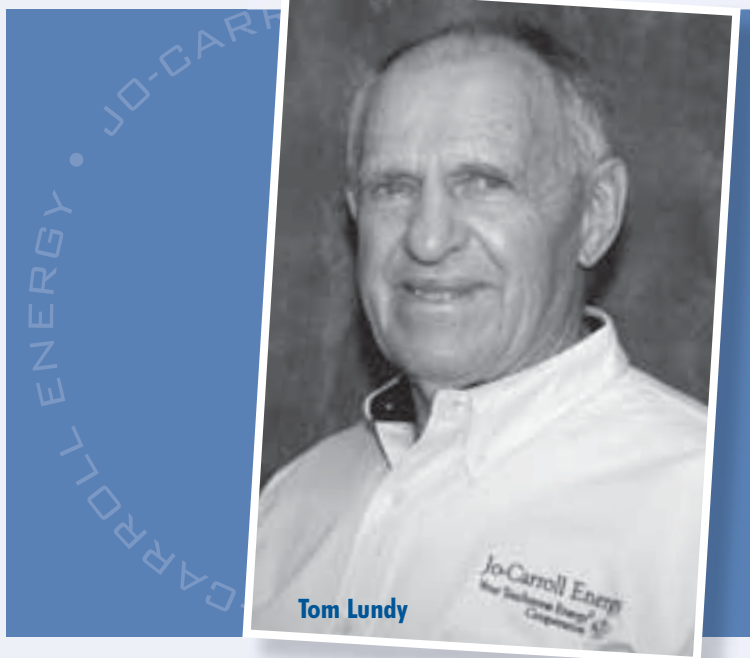
A farmer by trade, Lundy grew up on a farm north of Savanna. After attending Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa and service with the Marines, he returned home and started farming. Today, Lundy continues to raise corn, soybeans and beef cattle. He also was involved with the Farm Bureau board for several years. Lundy and his wife, Priscilla, have four children and have 10 grandchildren.

Lundy's introduction to the co-op business model also came through agriculture as a member of the Carroll Service Company. He has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since 1972.

In his eighth term on the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors, members first elected him in 1990 to represent District 6. In the more than 20 years Lundy has served on the board, he has found all aspects of the cooperative interesting, adding that it's always challenging.

Technology advances have brought many changes to Jo-Carroll Energy. Lundy recalled bringing the computer systems in-house after several years of contracting with Dairyland Power Cooperative for those services. With that came the addition of the mapping system, one of the reasons the co-op has been able to expand, he said.

"The acquisition (of former



Alliant Energy electric and natural gas territory) was a challenge, but we were prepared for it," Lundy said. He noted the co-op had already experienced steady growth through the '90s, although that was often part-time or second home residences. "When we got the electric system at the old army depot, that gave us some experience," he added.

The growth also brought another kind of challenge—new members who weren't familiar with cooperatives. Lundy stressed the value of Jo-Carroll Energy as a local cooperative, a local business.

"I always think when I write a check that it's nice to send it close to home," he said. "When you send it off to Texas or Georgia, it feels so unattached. Here, being local, members can talk to a person when they call. That's another problem with big companies—you punch buttons and wonder whether or not you will ever get a human."

Being a local, member-owned co-op has another advantage.

Lundy pointed out that Jo-Carroll Energy has been able to hire people from the area. "That's a very strong positive," Lundy said. "We're hiring people who live here, and that really means a lot. We have such talent right here and it's good we're able to recognize it."

Like all members of the board, Lundy has completed several education courses through NRECA and has completed requirements for both the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates. Continuing education is important for today's director, in a time of increased regulations and requirements.

Increasing regulations, and the associated cost, are always a concern for the board, Lundy said, along with improvements to the plant to enhance reliability and service. For the future, he would like to see more member interest. "Sometimes, the most difficult part is to know what the members are thinking," he noted.

# Coming soon: New Co-op Connections® Cards

It's not junk mail you'll be receiving with your March/April bill statement. Keep your eye out for your new Co-op Connections® Card.

The card that offers discounts at more than 50 local merchants and saved Jo-Carroll Energy members more than \$177,000 on prescriptions, now offers members significant savings on dental, vision and chiropractic care.

Healthy Savings examples include 20 to 40 percent discounts on a range of dental care services; 10 to 60 percent off eyeglasses, contact lenses and eye exams; and 30 percent off chiropractic treatments.

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings

program, call 1 (800) 800-7616 with your card handy or visit [www.healthysavings.coop](http://www.healthysavings.coop). Detailed information on available savings and how to take advantage of the entire Healthy Savings package is posted here as well.

Cards will be mailed to those members participating in e-bill. New cards will be available at our offices and at the cooperative's annual meeting on April 13 in Elizabeth, also.

The same pharmacy discounts are available with the new card, and

you may use your current card to continue to receive these benefits as well as at participating local merchants. To receive the new Healthy Savings benefits, you must carry a new Co-op Connections Card.

Be on the lookout for this great new card with great new features.



## Look up, stay alert during outdoor work, play

As the weather warms up and kids and adults alike will soon head outside to perform winter clean-up and play, remember to look up and be alert for power lines and other electrical hazards. Here at Jo-Carroll Energy, using proper procedures and safety measures is a matter of life and death. We take safety seriously at home, too. Accidents happen, but if we educate ourselves and our children, we can keep them to a minimum.

- Use only weather-resistant, heavy duty extension cords marked for

outdoor use.

- Don't leave outdoor power tools unattended for curious children or animals to find.
- Never fly a kite on a rainy day or anywhere but an open space. Kites can easily become tangled in power lines.
- Don't climb trees that are near power lines and poles.
- Remember that power lines and other utilities run underground, too. Call 811 to have utility lines marked before you start digging.



## Students: You can win a week-long trip to Washington, D.C.!

The 2013 Youth to Washington Tour • June 14 - 21

Visit historic monuments and museums

Meet U.S. Representatives and Senators

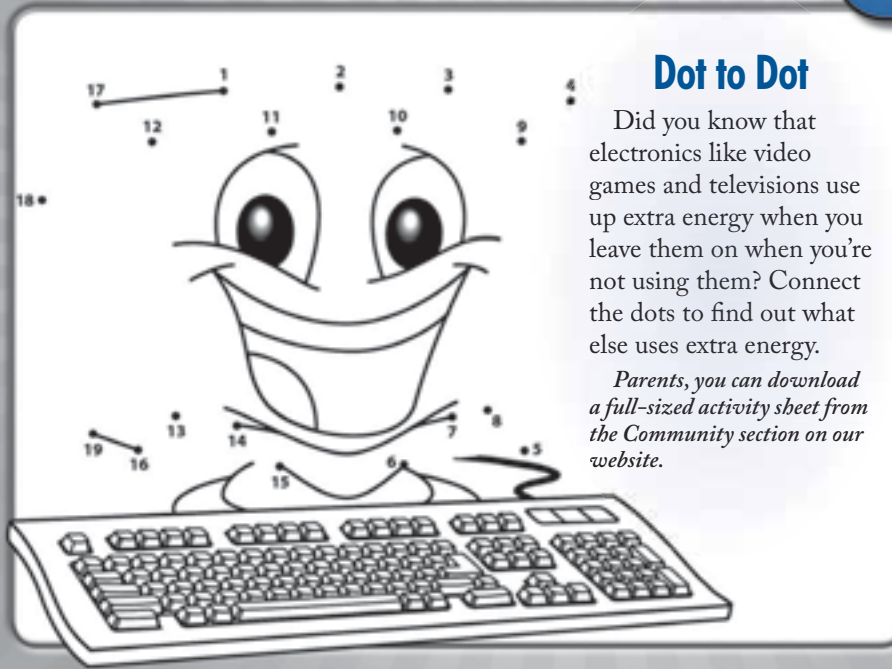
Join hundreds of young people from across the country

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply

Deadline is March 8

Applications can be downloaded at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com)

# Kids Page



## Dot to Dot

Did you know that electronics like video games and televisions use up extra energy when you leave them on when you're not using them? Connect the dots to find out what else uses extra energy.

*Parents, you can download a full-sized activity sheet from the Community section on our website.*

## Introducing the Kids Page

Jo-Carroll Energy's new Kids Page is a monthly opportunity for families to learn about energy efficiency and safety.

The Kids Page provides kid friendly efficiency and safety tips along with fun activities. Each month we'll provide information or activities featuring a cast of characters including Willie Wirehand, CFL Charlie and our own Penelope, Chip and LLOYD as well as visits from the Energy Detective.

Together, you can learn about little changes that can make a big difference!

## Plugged in Kids

*Website offers fun ways to 'switch on' youth to energy efficiency*

Getting kids excited about energy efficiency may seem hard, but Touchstone Energy Kids Zone with its mascot CFL Charlie is designed with young "super energy savers" in mind.

Kids Zone includes interactive games, videos and surprises. It's a fun way for parents and children to focus on energy efficiency together and develop habits that will last a lifetime.

Through fun activities, children and their parents learn about renewable energy, electrical safety and energy savings. Here are some of the activities:

- **LIGHTS OUT!** is an energy saving game that challenges kids to speed through a virtual house replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient CFLs and

turning off lights and appliances as fast as they can.

- In **Visit the Farm**, windmills spin and the sun shines as kids click on objects to learn about different types of renewable energy.
- CFL Charlie's friend, Switchy helps kids learn energy saving tips.
- **Links** lead to information about saving energy, safety and Touchstone Energy's own hot air balloon.

Parents can play the games with their children or download an energy efficiency checklist to work on together to get good energy efficiency habits started.

Teachers searching for ways to help students focus on energy efficiency have several resources available.

Jo-Carroll Energy can provide material from the CFL Charlie Super Energy Saver kits or arrange to have a speaker talk to classes about energy efficiency and more.

### *More energy efficiency activities are just a click away*

To visit the TSE Kids Zone, just scan the code or visit

[www.kidsenergyzone.com](http://www.kidsenergyzone.com).



Here are a few more child-friendly resources to help kids learn:

- [www.energystar.gov/kids](http://www.energystar.gov/kids)
- [www.eere.energy.gov/kids](http://www.eere.energy.gov/kids)
- [www.energyhog.org](http://www.energyhog.org)

# Deployment of automated meters continues

Jo-Carroll Energy continues deployment of automated meters in its advanced metering infrastructure project to increase the efficiency and reliability of the cooperative's electric system.

The new, automated meters allow Jo-Carroll Energy to read meters remotely. Meters have been installed in areas served by 14 of the cooperative's substations. As of the March newsletter deadline, Jo-Carroll Energy has installed approximately 11,186 meters capable of communicating to our office through the substations.

The co-op currently is working on installation of three-phase meters in areas where single phase installations were previously completed, according to Dean Skinner, Jo-Carroll Energy manager of engi-

neering services. Following delivery of the next batch of automated meters in March, deployment of single phase meters will continue in the rural areas of northwestern Carroll County.

Jo-Carroll Energy contracts with Chapman Metering for installation of the meters.

The AMI project is a four-year plan to deploy the automated meters system wide. With more than 50 percent of the new meters installed, the co-op expects to complete the project in 2014, Skinner noted.

In addition to reducing operational costs through increased efficiencies, the new meters help improve power quality, enhance outage response and will allow the co-op to offer new services in the future, possibly including pre-pay

and time of use rates.

The AMI infrastructure also enabled Jo-Carroll Energy to do the load control module pilot program, Skinner said. The voluntary pilot program will allow water heater load control during peak use periods. Contractors are currently installing the modules in 300 members' residences in the East Dubuque, Menominee and Chadwick areas.

Unlike modules in the current water heater control program, the new modules have two-way communications, so the co-op can confirm that the controls work and how load is shed.

Visit our website for frequently asked questions about AMI and information about a typical meter installation.

## How do I decide on the right size and kind of heating and cooling system for my home?

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

### Right Questions

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?
- Have I contacted my cooperative about incentives and gathered information important for making this decision?

### Right Size

- Has the contractor performed a Manual J and a Manual S calculation on my home to provide a quote for properly sized HVAC equipment?
- Systems that are too large are:
  - more expensive to install
  - break down more often
  - operate inefficiently
  - Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy

**Need more information?**  
Visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)



**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.*