

Jo-Carroll Energy • Elizabeth, Illinois • 800-858-5522 • www.jocarroll.com

JO-CARROLL

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

We're looking out for you

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

Communication is a vital ingredient in the cooperative business model. Because every Jo-Carroll Energy member is an owner of the Cooperative, we believe we have an obligation to keep you informed about the cooperative, the industry and legislative issues.

The fifth cooperative principle, "Education, Training and Information" reflects the importance we place on communication. An informed membership, aware of the issues and solutions, is critical to the success of Jo-Carroll Energy. We strive to do this through a variety of means.

Occasionally we send a bill insert with your monthly bill with more information about a specific service, event or issue. At our website, you can learn Jo-Carroll Energy news, find answers to many frequently asked questions or download forms.

Each month, this column appears in our newsletter the "Hi-Lines" section (center eight pages) of Illinois Country Living, a publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (our statewide organization). Both the newsletter and the magazine contain articles on a variety of topics of interest to our diverse membership. These publications inform member-owners about energy efficiency, safety and issues that impact your co-op and your energy bills. Our newsletter delivers necessary business information to member-owners including minutes of meetings, cooperative news and information about programs and services.

Cooperative publications provide additional service by connecting members to

important information about safety and energy efficiency. Safety messages are a vital part of our safety policies as well as a responsible business practice to help keep our members informed and safe. Energy efficiency messages are essential as we work to keep power reliable and affordable for our members. Energy efficiency not only can help you save money but promotion of efficiency will become ever more significant as environmental requirements and power demands continue to pressure power costs.

From time to time we receive comments from members about why we send the magazine and its cost. We appreciate the feedback that will help guide us in delivering quality service. Communications do have a price, but at just about 65 cents per copy per month, the magazine costs a little more than a postage stamp to produce and mail. Considering the information — and the ideas to help you save energy — each issue contains, we think that's still a great value.

We are always looking for the best way to communicate with you and to meet your needs. One of the fastest and easiest ways to do this is online. Jo-Carroll Energy recently launched a Facebook page to provide up-to-date information about programs, services and outages and also allow you to provide feedback to us.

Communicating with members is a responsibility we take seriously. Making sure you have the information you need about your cooperative is one more way we're looking out for you.

Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • June 22, 2011

The Board met at the Cooperative in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, June 22, 2011. This is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Joe Mattingley commented that there are many things happening at Jo-Carroll Energy on many fronts. He mentioned the AIEC resolution process where Jo-Carroll Energy has proposed resolutions, which have now been accepted by the AIEC Board of Directors.

Dairyland Report

Director Stadel discussed the Dairyland Power Annual Meeting and advised the directors of the names of the Dairyland Power Cooperative officers elected at an organizational meeting held immediately following the annual meeting.

AIEC Report

Director Senn commented that over \$500 million has been spent against Cooperative efforts in proposing reasonable solutions to energy issues the country is facing. He commented on the Youth to Washington program and that the Governor may veto the Commonwealth Edison legislation.

Strategic Activity

Director Lundy reported on a Policy Committee meeting held on June 9, 2011. Policy 116 was approved without changes. Director Lundy then reported that the Committee discussed scholarships provided by the Cooperative. A proposed Social Media Policy was approved as recommended. Policy 102 was approved as presented. Director Senn reported on the Resolutions Committee meetings on Friday, May 27, and Thursday, June 9. The Committee reviewed 12 resolutions incorporating 30 AIEC resolutions. Senn then reported that the AIEC accepted Jo-Carroll Energy's efforts and approved the resolutions as proposed.

CEO's Report

The CEO reported on the following in addition to the written CEO report:

- a. **Financial Operating Report**—The CEO reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin for May of (\$76,004.00), a smaller loss for the month than was budgeted.
- b. **Power Supply Report**—The CEO reported on efforts at the Cooperative to continue to be pro-active on the issue of power supply in the best interests of the members.
- c. **Danisco Update**—The CEO reported on efforts at finalizing a Danisco agreement.
- d. **Biomass Plant Update**—Hastings reported that the power plant Air Permit has been received.
- e. **Farmers Mutual Report**—Hastings stated efforts continue in working with Farmers Mutual.
- f. **NRCO Board Meeting Report**—Hastings reported on meeting plans for the NRCO Board.
- g. **TCEDA Update**—The CEO said that Cindy Lenz will soon begin work at Jo-Carroll Energy in the role of Manager of Economic Development.
- h. **CFO Report**—Tracy Heidenreich reviewed banking issues and extending the Form 990 filing.
- i. **CAO Report**—Russ Simpson said that things are proceeding with TCEDA. He reported on successful training sessions with the City of Mt. Carroll. He commented on the ongoing efforts at creating a Culture of Excellence at Jo-Carroll Energy. He also discussed the dual fuel program.
- j. **COO Report**—Kyle Buros reviewed the current status of SandPrairie Wireless and reviewed the progress on Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI). He described negotiations with Dairyland Power, IPL, and ITC to swap parts of the service area and infrastructure to make the system more efficient.
- k. **External Affairs**—The General Counsel gave an update on

continuing legislative efforts on behalf of the Cooperative and the status of highway projects and the Thomson Prison.

Board Issues

- a. **Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting Report**—Heidi Weber reported on the Annual Meeting.
- b. **Certification of Delegates for Badger Power Cooperative Meeting, August 9, 2011**—A Delegate and Alternate Delegate were identified for the Badger Power Cooperative Meeting.
- c. **Attendance at Region 5 & 6 Meeting**—The directors identified who would be attending the NRECA Region 5 and 6 meeting in Minneapolis.
- d. **Selection of Delegates for the Region 5 & 6 Meeting, September 14-15, 2011, Minneapolis, MN**—A Delegate and Alternate Delegate were selected for the NRECA Region 5 & 6 Meeting.
- e. **Capital Credit Allocation**—CFO Heidenreich listed the suggestions for capital credit allocations for 2011. The board approved the recommendations.
- f. **ACRE Program/dues for 2012**—The CEO reviewed the funding process followed by ACRE, the cooperative program political action committee.
- g. **Discuss December 2011 Board meeting date**—The Board agreed to reschedule the December meeting for 2011 to November 30, 2011.
- h. **Youth to Washington Presentations**—Heidi Weber introduced Kevin Glick and Haley Francke, 2011 Youth to Washington attendees, for their presentation and comments.

Reports

The Board received various reports on Board activities since the last meeting.

Adjournment

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Metform Substation

Jo-Carroll Energy “threw the switch” to energize a newly constructed substation off of Illinois Route 84 near the Metform facility south of Savanna on Aug. 3, 2011.

The new substation replaces a smaller three-transformer substation at Metform, and was constructed to support new equipment and increased production capacity at the Metform plant.

Designed by Booth and Associates of Raleigh, N.C., it is the first ever greenfield substation for the cooperative, meaning it was designed from the ground up. Work began on the substation in November of 2010.

After concrete was poured, the first stages completed were the lattice structures and steel. Once all the steel was erected, high and low side buses were put into place and all equipment and control wiring installed. Following completion of construction the testing process began, checking the functionality of all equipment. The substation was energized on Wednesday, Aug. 3rd.

Also the first of its kind for Jo-Carroll Energy is an oil containment system. If a transformer were to rupture and leak oil, oil sensors would shut down and then pump out and store the oil in the containment system. The oil would stay in a reservoir and could be pumped out rather than requiring excavation.

The control building at the substation houses all the relays and battery bank that control and power the substation equipment. Also housed here is the SCADA system equipment that connects the substation to Jo-Carroll Energy’s headquarters. The SCADA equipment collects and condenses the data, providing information about what is going on at the substation.

At present, the substation mainly serves Metform, but also improves reliability and allows for future growth on the system.



Know what's below— call 811 before you dig

Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? Building a deck? If you are planning a fall landscaping or construction project that requires digging—even if you plan to hire a professional — a call JULIE is required before you begin working.

Did you know there are nearly 20 million miles of underground utility lines in the United States — all providing services we depend on every day? A call to JULIE, the Illinois one-call center at 811, connects you to the state one-call center that then alerts the affected underground facility owners so they can dispatch locators to mark the location of their lines with paint or flags so that you can dig safely. Make sure you call at least two working days before digging.

Unintentionally striking a line can result in inconvenient outages for entire neighborhoods, harm to yourself or your neighbors and costly repairs. Every project, no matter how small, warrants a call.

JULIE's call center agents are available to receive and process

requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week at either 8-1-1 or 800-892-0123. E-Request, a free, web-based program for homeowners with Internet access who prefer to enter their own utility locate requests via www.illinois1call.com is also a popular option.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

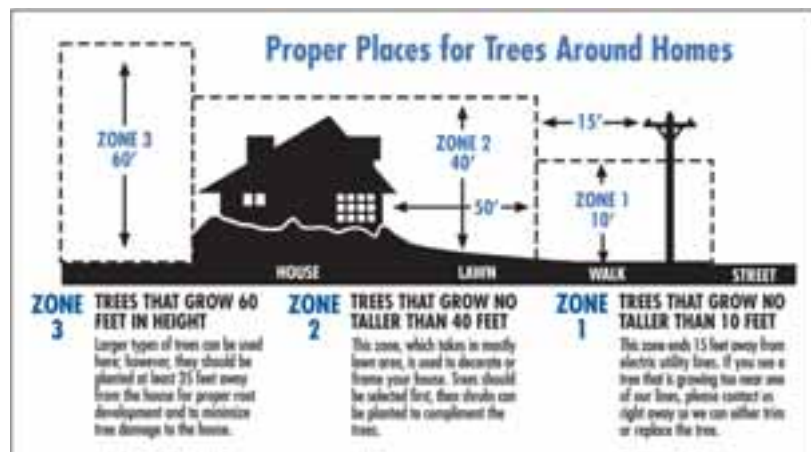
Four steps to safer digging

- Call before you dig.
- Wait the required amount of time.
- Respect the marks.
- Dig with care.

Right tree, right place

Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs for utility companies, reduce tree mortality, and result in healthier community forests.

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree that could grow 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning.
- A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires.



- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electric equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark location of

underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

Visit our website at www.jocarroll.com for more information.

Jo-Carroll Energy

793 U.S. Route 20 West • P.O. Box 390 • Elizabeth, Illinois 61028-0390

Jo-Carroll Energy helps you recycle CFLs

Energy-savvy consumers know that equipping five of a home's most frequently used light fixtures with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) can save a family \$70 a year in lighting costs.

Even though the bulbs have a longer life than regular incandescent bulbs, they do burn out. How do you properly dispose of those bulbs?

Jo-Carroll Energy offers a recycling program for disposing of CFLs. This free service allows drop off of used, unbroken bulbs at the

cooperative's offices in Elizabeth and Savanna as well as other locations in our service area.

Jo Daviess County

- Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters, Elizabeth
- East Dubuque Library, East Dubuque
- Galena Territory Association, Galena

Carroll County

- Jo-Carroll Energy, Savanna
- True Value Home and Building

Center, Savanna

- Mt. Carroll City Hall, Mt. Carroll

Whiteside County

- Brinkman Building Center, Fulton
- Albany Village Hall, Albany

Please visit our website at www.jocarroll.com for complete addresses and hours.

Look for lumens, not watts

When you're shopping for lightbulbs, compare lumens to be sure you're getting the amount of light, or level of brightness, you want. A new Lighting Facts Label will make it easy to compare bulb brightness, color, life, and estimated annual operating cost.

Buy lumens, not watts

We typically buy things based on how much of it we get, right? When buying milk, we buy it by volume (gallons).

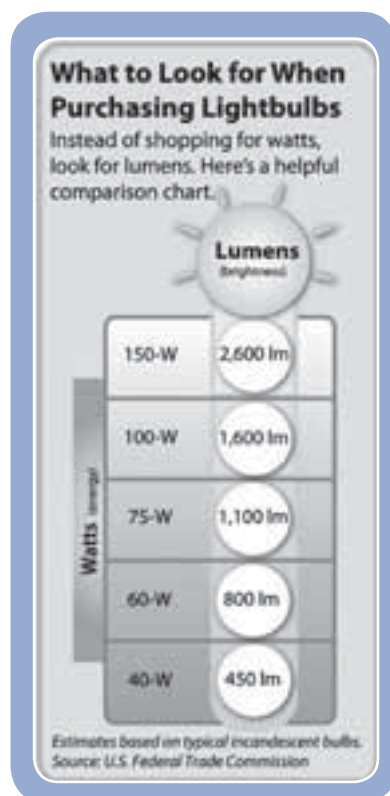
So why should lighting be any different? But for decades, we have been buying lightbulbs based on how much energy they consume (watts), not how much light they give us (lumens). With the arrival of new, more efficient lightbulbs, it's time for that to change.

What's a Lumen?

Lumens measure how much light you are getting from a bulb. More lumens means a brighter light; fewer lumens a dimmer light.

Lumens are to light what pounds are to bananas or gallons are to milk—they let you buy the amount of light you want. So when buying new bulbs, *think lumens, not watts*.

The brightness, or lumen levels, of lights in your home may vary widely, so here's a **rule of thumb**:



- To replace a 100-W traditional incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that gives you about 1,600 lumens. If you want something dimmer, go for less lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens.
- Replace a 75-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 1,100 lumens

- Replace a 60-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 800 lumens
- Replace a 40-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 450 lumens.

What should I look for? The lighting facts label

To help consumers better understand the switch from watts to lumens, the Federal Trade Commission will require a new product label for lightbulbs starting in January 2012. The labels will help consumers buy bulbs that are right for them.

Like the helpful nutrition label on food products, the Lighting Facts Label will help consumers understand what they are really purchasing. The label clearly provides the lumens—or brightness—of the bulb, estimated operating cost for the year, and the color of the light (from warm/yellowish, to white to cool/blue).

To learn more about lighting options and other ways to save energy at home, visit www.jocarroll.com or TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: *Energy Savers*, U.S. Department of Energy

Susan's Calico Creations, Fulton

Susan May taught math in her former career. When she retired, May took her love of geometry from a science to an art. Opened in 2002, Susan's Calico Creations quilt shop became her dream come true.

Baby cribs filled with 4,000 bolts of fabric symbolize the unique 4,000 square foot quilting display area. Endless possibilities abound for your next quilt or project from rich Orientals and batiks (May's favorite fabric) to moda marbles, backgrounds, 1930s reproductions and florals and juvenile prints of all sizes.

"I sell high quality, 100 percent cotton fabric for quilters," said May. "It is called 'quilt-shop only' and can withstand many washes, unlike fabrics you can purchase at chain craft stores."

As you walk through the shop you can't help but notice the dozens of display quilts crafted by May and her staff hanging from the tall ceilings and along the walls. Most quilts on display are samples from the newest books or patterns and are taught in the numerous classes provided at the shop.

Instructors vary their innovative offerings from "clueless," to paper piecing, hand applique, machine quilting and blocks-of-the-month specials. Classes are taught in a spacious classroom that accommodates up to 25 quilters. Each sewing station



has a flannel board for quilt layout and display. Numerous large tables are available for quilt basting anytime.

May and her staff welcome Kim Rentz, a new class teacher at Susan's Calico Creations. Rentz will double as a Viking Machine repair person. Also new to the shop is a large supply of sulky threads for the machine embroiderer.

If quilting is not your hobby, maybe finishing furniture is what you enjoy. Upstairs you will find Attic Woods with an assortment of unfinished wood furniture for your entire home. Bedroom, dining, kitchen, den and office furniture is available in first-rate quality solid oak, pine, maple and birch.

Furniture delivery is available within a 50-mile radius.

Whether it is your furniture or the fabric used to accent it, you can find it at Susan's Calico Creations. Come see the new items offered while you treat yourself to the complimentary coffee, tea, cookies and more.

Susan's Calico Creations is located at 1108 4th St. Fulton. Call 815-589-2221 or visit www.susans-calico creations.com for more information about quilting or classes. 10% off all quilting fabrics, books, sewing notions and furniture in stock is available to Co-op Connections Card holders. Contact Jo-Carroll Energy today to receive your Co-op Connections Card.

Coloring Contest

Jo-Carroll Energy names coloring contest winners

Three area students are winners in Jo-Carroll Energy's back to school coloring contest.

Winners are:

Ages 5-7

Eddie Yoerger, 6, East Dubuque (East Dubuque District Library)

Ages 8-10

Riley Wolter, 9, Hanover, "Electricity: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," (Hanover Township Library)

Ages 11-13

Shannon Sleeman, 13, Savanna, "Electricity with Ben Franklin," (Savanna Public Library)

All Jo-Carroll Energy members' children ages 5-13 were eligible to enter the contest during the months of June and July. This year's theme was "History of Electricity". Students were asked to use creativity, originality and color to portray

this theme. Each winner received a complete set of school supplies and is well prepared to return to school this fall.

Jo-Carroll Energy partnered with area libraries to promote the contest. In appreciation, Jo-Carroll Energy presented five energy-related children's books to the libraries in the winners' hometowns.

Look up, look down and stay safe this Fall

Practice electrical safety on the farm

Don't let harvest time turn dangerous by overlooking electrical hazards during harvest season. National Farm Safety and Health Week is Sept. 18-24, and Jo-Carroll Energy joins Safe Electricity in urging farm operators, family members and employees to beware of overhead power lines.

It's vital to keep equipment safely away from power lines and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. Take these measures to stay safe this harvest season and all yearlong:

- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines and utility poles. Make sure there is ample clearance of power lines when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front end loaders.
- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near lines.
- Train all farm workers on how to properly operate machinery near overhead power lines and make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.
- Never move a power line; metal isn't the only material that conducts electricity.

If contact is made, it's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help and wait until the electric utility arrives to cut off power. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Stay inside the vehicle unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire.

If there is a risk of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time.



Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

National Farm Safety Week is the perfect time for farm families

and workers to discuss electrical dangers and to know how to avoid them. Learn more at www.Safe-Electricity.org.

It took years to make it a farm . . . It takes one call to keep it safe.



No one digs more dirt than America's farmers. The soil on your farm is rich with nutrients and minerals . . . and underground utilities. Utilities that you, your family, friends and community depend on every day.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Excavation projects can create safety hazards. Plan to DIG SAFELY when beginning these projects. Call JULIE at 8-1-1 to notify utility companies that may be affected by the excavation. Take care in farming, plowing and excavating.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

Find us on facebook

Our Facebook page is updated regularly with posts about the co-op, events, energy saving advice and links to other useful cooperative news.

At Jo-Carroll Energy we want to keep our members informed, so we've joined Facebook.

Communicating with members is a priority at Jo-Carroll Energy, and Facebook is one more way for us to connect with you.

"Like" us on Facebook to receive outage information, news, energy saving tips and more. It's one of the fastest and easiest ways to get up-to-date information and communicate with Jo-Carroll Energy.

In the event of major outages or storms, we will be able to keep our members updated on our progress.

Like Illinois Country Living, Hi-Lines, www.jocarroll.com and our other communication efforts, Facebook is one more way Jo-Carroll Energy strives to keep our members informed and is just another way we're looking out for you.



Visit Jo-Carroll Energy's page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jo-Carroll-Energy/202550873102369>

**View or pay your bills online
anytime, anywhere
with Jo-Carroll Energy's**

With e-Bill, you receive your monthly Jo-Carroll Energy billing statement by e-mail instead of a paper bill. After you sign up for electronic billing, you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to Jo-Carroll Energy's secure online payment site each month when your billing statement is ready to view online.

Visit www.jocarroll.com and click on the e-bill button to register.

eBill

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793 U.S. Route 20 West • P.O. Box 390
Elizabeth, Illinois 61028-0390