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GUEST COLUMN

By Adam Schwartz



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Cooperatives drive democracy

It has often been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. It is easy to take our right to vote for granted, maybe because there are so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state and local elections for political offices. Then there are elections for social or other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. So it is understandable to see how “election fatigue” can take hold.

As we head into the final stage of what has been a divisive national election, it is a good time to remember that elections don't have to be about name calling and bitterness. Co-ops can and do play a role in cultivating a civil society where people can practice democracy at the hyper local level. As a member of a cooperative, you have the right to run for the board of directors. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. In their document, “A Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade,” the International Cooperative Alliance, a global organization made up of co-ops from over 100

countries, identified member participation as one of the five key ingredients for a co-op to be successful.

Voting and being actively involved in the affairs of the co-op are key ways in which members can participate.

Take the time to get to know candidates running for the cooperative's board. Seek out ways that you can help spread the word about the good work your co-op is doing.

The cooperative business model is a great one; it fosters engagement and creates strong communities. Over 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, “The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is [governed by a board], every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value.”

Those words are truer today than ever before. Let your voice be heard, and take the time to participate in all the elections.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop



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.

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

Resume of Minutes

June 29, 2016

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

- David Senn**
Chairman
District 7
- Russell Holesinger**
Vice Chairman
District 8
- Marcia Stanger**
Secretary
District 3
- Martin Werner**
Treasurer
District 1
- Joseph Mattingley**
District 2
- Bret Jones**
District 4
- Patricia Smith**
District 5
- Thomas Lundy**
District 6
- Larry Carroll**
District 9
- Robert Kuhns**
District 10
- Ronald Hallendorff**
District 10

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday

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 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 p.m.

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The board met on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Senn provided updates on the Board self-evaluations that were recently submitted by the Directors. Senn gave a report on a meeting with Dan Brewer from the NRECA regarding the Jo-Carroll Energy CEO Executive Search Committee. He noted that Dan Brewer will be meeting with the Directors and Senior Staff for a Special Board Meeting on July 15 to discuss the CEO Survey.

Presentations– None

Dairyland Report – Director Jones gave updates on his recent attendance at the Dairyland 75th Annual Meeting. Jones gave an update on the new officers and the board chair of the Dairyland Power Board.

AIEC Report – Director Senn announced that former Congressman, Jim Matheson, has been hired as the new CEO for the NRECA. Senn reported that the AIEC will apply for a new line of credit with CFC.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided updates on various regulatory issues that the APGA is following, such as, a furnace rule, water heater requirements, and natural gas regulations.

PPI Report – Director Hallendorff reported on the generation numbers for the Prairie State Generating Campus in May.

Monthly Committee Review

(a) **Policy Report** – Policy 102.1 – Director Elections, was updated to reflect recent changes to the bylaws.

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

(a) **Financial Operating Report** – CEO Hastings reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of approximately \$224,000 in May, compared to a budgeted amount of \$262,931, which was due to an increase in power costs above budgeted amounts. The Board accepted the May Financial Operating Report for filing with the auditor by general consent.

(b) **Power Supply Report** – CEO Hastings discussed the merger between ITC Midwest and Fortis and Jo-Carroll's intervention in the related case before the Illinois Commerce Commission.

(c) **CFO Report** – CFO Heidenreich gave reports from the SEDC (Southeastern Data Cooperative) conference she recently attended, as well as a US Bank webinar.

(d) **Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Report** – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buros reported on an outage in Galena caused by a transformer failure in the Commerce street substation on

June 27. A mobile unit was deployed and there was no impact on the operations of the business served by the transformer. Buros also gave an update on the progress of the headquarters building addition.

(e) **Culture of Excellence and Communications** – Merri Sevey, Vice-President of Human Resources discussed the Jo-Carroll Energy Member Appreciation Days, noting the sizeable turnout. Sevey thanked staff member Peggy Francomb for her planning of the successful event. Sevey announced that Caroline Fisher will be meeting with employees in August and September.

(f) **Member Services** – Jennifer Skien, Vice-President of Member Services reported on a recent survey that went out to members in District 10 regarding the AC load control program. Skien also provided information on the upcoming field inspections that are being scheduled. Skien provided an update on a recent scam alert directed towards Jo-Carroll Energy Members, noting that the Galena Gazette reported the scam as well.

(g) **External Affairs Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations and General Counsel reported on the State of Illinois and the possibility of a budget compromise. Allendorf noted that the lack of a budget for so long has resulted in a poor credit rating for the State of Illinois, resulting in higher interest rates. Allendorf reported on the activities of TCEDA, noting that he has been elected as the secretary of the organization.

Board Issues

(a) **Discounted Estate Retirements Approval** – CFO Heidenreich presented the current discounted estate capital credit retirements for the board's consideration. The discounted estate retirements were approved, as presented.

(b) **Review of Debt Management Plan and Cash Management Plan** – The Debt Management Plan and Cash Management Plan were approved, as presented.

(c) **Region 5 and 6 Meeting** – The attendees for the NRECA Region 5 and 6 Meeting were selected.

(d) **Region 5 and 6 Voting Delegate and Alternate** – The voting delegate and alternate delegate were selected for the NRECA Region 5 and 6 Meeting.

(e) **Badger Power Annual Meeting** – The attendees were selected for the Badger Power Annual Meeting.

(f) **Badger Power Annual Meeting Delegate and Alternate** – The Badger Power Annual Meeting delegate and alternate were selected.

Continued on 16f ▶

Jo-Carroll Energy adds to 'green fleet'

Jo-Carroll Energy has added a hybrid electric bucket truck to its fleet with the addition of a Altec-built truck that features a jobsite energy management system (JEMS), a separate battery system that powers equipment on the truck.

The bucket features a hybrid-powered system with an 8 kWh energy storage capacity. The JEMS provides battery power for the hydraulic equipment, reducing emissions and fuel consumption by eliminating the need for the truck's

engine to idle at a worksite. It also manages cabin temperature heating and cooling.

The hybrid system reduces fuel consumption, lessens noise pollution, lowers maintenance costs and decreases the carbon footprint, creating a safer, healthier work environment.

This is the second hybrid vehicle for the cooperative. A Honda Accord Hybrid was added as a pool vehicle in 2014.

Jo-Carroll Energy worked with Dairyland Power Cooperative to offset cost's associated with the JEMS package.

The project with Dairyland entails replacing gasoline and diesel powered fleet vehicles with newly manufactured hybrid, plug in hybrid or plug in battery vehicles. For co-ops that participate, Dairyland pays the difference between the five-year cumulative cost of a project vehicle and a comparable conventional vehicle. **Stacey Sikkema**



Jo-Carroll Energy displayed its hybrid bucket truck in the annual Elizabeth Fair Parade in July. In addition to showcasing the hybrid truck, the float titled "Partnering with Farmers since 1939" followed the parade theme of "Farming through the Years".

Jo-Carroll Energy Interim CEO

M.L. "Chris" Christman, the retired president/CEO of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, started as interim president and chief executive officer at Jo-Carroll Energy effective Aug. 1.

His appointment was made by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors in response to the departure of Michael Hastings who accepted the position of president and CEO at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative in Virginia.

Christman began his career as an apprentice lineman at



Shelby Electric Cooperative in Shelbyville in 1975. He started at Coles-Moultrie as a journeyman lineman in 1979. He later became a staking engineer, and, in 1988, was promoted to director of operations. He became the president/CEO of the cooperative in 1999, retiring in May of 2015.

Jo-Carroll Energy's board of directors is working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Executive Search to identify candidates for the cooperative's next president and CEO.

Jo-Carroll Energy, CoBank support local 'Manufacturing Day'

Highland Community College's annual "Manufacturing Day" event has received a donation of \$4,000 from Jo-Carroll Energy and CoBank as part of the bank's Sharing Success program.

Manufacturing Day for students in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties is held in cooperation with the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance and other businesses and individuals. Part of a national movement to inform the public about what manufacturing is, the event informs youth about the career opportunities that abound in this sector they are most likely not aware of—jobs requiring a variety of levels of training and education.

The first Manufacturing Day for Jo Daviess and Carroll county students was held in 2014.

"Jo-Carroll Energy and Highland Community College share a mutual interest in the well-being and economic solvency of the region we both serve," said Michael Hastings, Jo-Carroll Energy's former president and CEO. "Partnering on the next Manufacturing Day in the fall of 2016 is one way that our organizations can intervene early to influence the career development of youth in a workforce sector that is very important to the region."

This year's event for Jo Daviess and Carroll counties will take place on Oct. 20. For information on Manufacturing Day, please contact Rebecca Anderson at HCC, 815-546-7171.

The donation was made possible by CoBank's Sharing Success Program, which matches contributions by their cooperative customers to nonprofit organizations in rural America. CoBank matched a \$2,000 donation by Jo-Carroll Energy, doubling the local impact of the donation.



Representatives of Jo-Carroll Energy, Highland Community College and Tri-County Economic Development Alliance were on hand recently for a check presentation to Manufacturing Day. Shown from left are: Carrie Sigafus, Metform, a division of MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions; Terry McGovern, Signcraft Screenprint; Chris Allendorf, Jo-Carroll Energy; Rebecca Anderson, HCC; Lisa McCarthy, TCEDA; Mary Katos, BEST, Inc.; and Melissa Gehant, Metform.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

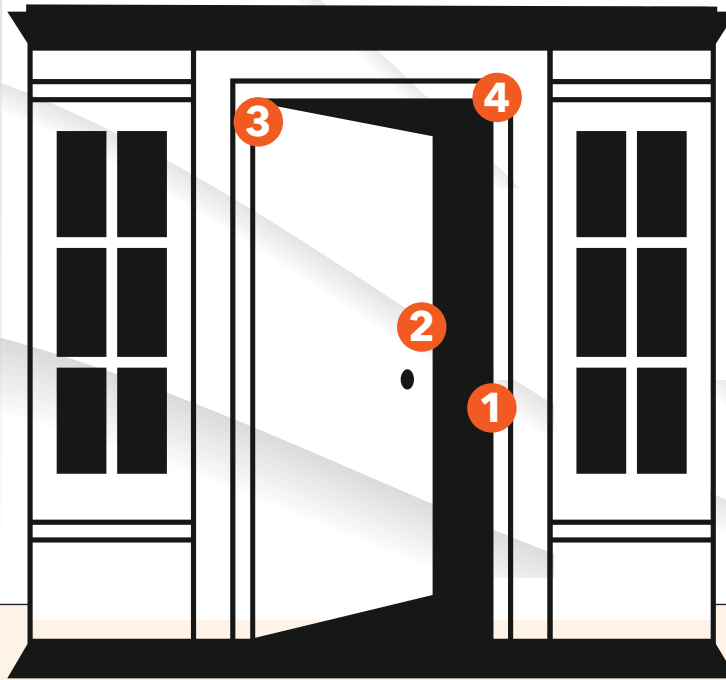


Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

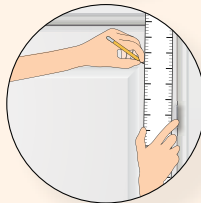
Weather stripping doors

Capturing energy savings by sealing air leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



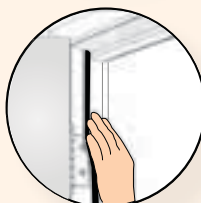
1 CLEANING SURFACES — Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS — To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM — Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING — Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

The Answer Physical Therapy, Savanna

Are you experiencing mobility issues but don't want to go through the trouble of visiting with your primary physician? Often times we forget that these pains may be addressed by a physical therapist specialist as well. John Voelz of Savanna provides a fully equipped physical therapy center downtown Savanna. He offers specialized services such as medical fitness, physical therapy, balance therapy, fitness nutrition and message therapy.

The Answer Physical Therapy is one of only several physical therapy centers in the tri-county area. John opened The Answer Physical Therapy in order to offer individualized services and convenient hours to meet the needs of his clients of all ages. He offers home visits as well as walk-in visits, available Monday through Saturday.

For those clients looking for access to a variety of services, John offers more than just physical therapy. He is certified in the area of nutrition and specializes in weight loss in conjunction with targeting a specialized exercise routine customized for his client's needs. The Answer Physical Therapy also offers balance therapy targeting seniors who may have experienced loss of balance due to an injury or a fall. John will work with his customers in order to target the



problem area and will focus on retaining full balance.

Contact The Answer Physical Therapy with questions or inquiries about services or visit www.answerphysicaltherapy.com for more information. The Answer Physical Therapy is flexible when it comes to scheduling and offers home visits when needed. The Answer's regular business hours are Monday through



Friday 8 am – 6 pm and Saturday 9 am – 12 pm.

Jo-Carroll Energy Members who present their Co-op Connections Card at time of visit will receive a free full injury screening.

Minutes continued from 16f

Executive Session

Executive Session was held to discuss pending and possible litigation, other legal matters, and employment matters.

Consideration of Matters discussed in Executive Session –

- (a) The hiring of M.L. “Chris” Christman as interim President and CEO of the cooperative, effective August 1, 2016 was unanimously approved.

- (b) A Utility Service Agreement with East Dubuque Nitrogen Fertilizers was unanimously approved.

Reports

Reports were heard on: The CFC Forum, Dairyland 75th Annual Meeting, PPI Annual Meeting and the AIEC Board Meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Dairyland Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting

Other Business- None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.

Share your voice in our 2016 member survey

As a member of Jo-Carroll Energy, you are provided with many opportunities to be part of the cooperative. You can attend the annual meeting, participate in our member advisory council or attend one of our member appreciation events.

Early this fall, you have another opportunity to let your voice be heard as a co-op member. Jo-Carroll Energy will be conducting a survey of residential members. The survey will be conducted

by Inside Information, a Kansas City, Mo. firm with experience in a wide variety of research methods and a strong history of working with cooperatives.

Co-op members will be randomly selected, and 400 completed surveys will be done for Jo-Carroll Energy. The survey will be completed using a two-stage telephone and online approach. Randomly selected households will receive a postcard asking members to complete a survey online and indicating

that they may be contacted later for a telephone interview. Calls will be conducted during weekday evenings and each call will last about 10 minutes.

As a member of Jo-Carroll Energy, your voice is an important one. Your feedback about how we're doing and where we can improve is essential to our success. We greatly appreciate those who take the time to help us better plan for your co-op's future.



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Make your voice count

Take the pledge to vote this election year.

Visit vote.coop to take the pledge.

Co-ops across the nation are dedicated to making our voices heard at the polls. Collectively we can make a difference.



LABOR DAY

Jo-Carroll Energy will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.

Make time for safety this harvest season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. The agricultural industry ranks as one of the most dangerous job sectors in the country, accounting for more than 500 deaths in 2014, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure that you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires

are not energized, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead

lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

