



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

Co-ops build a better world

October is Co-op Month. Many of you may not realize that Jo-Carroll Energy, your local electric, natural gas and broadband provider, utilizes a different business model to run these businesses. The cooperative business model has been with us for some time—pioneered in England over 100 years ago with the Rochdale Cooperative.

Having been in the cooperative movement for over 20 years, I have had the privilege of assisting a number of other co-ops get their start, primarily in the Chicagoland area. It is fascinating to me the number of different businesses that can use the co-op business model to operate efficiently and productively. Energy and infrastructure services, crops, foodstuffs, livestock businesses—all can be operated as a co-op.

One out of every four Americans is a co-op member; there are more than 1 billion around the world. Co-ops fill a community need, giving a voice to folks that profit-driven businesses often overlook. Co-ops share a common set of principles and values, including self-help and democracy.

One of the big differences between co-ops and other business models is member-owner economic participation. As the owners of Jo-Carroll Energy, all of you benefit from the service at a reasonable price and share in any margins over and above the cost of providing the service. Capital credits are used to accomplish this return of margins to you, and Jo-Carroll

Energy has been doing this for years.

Another advantage of co-ops is the fact that they do not have to have a profit motive, although some co-ops do. As a 501(c)(12) entity, Jo-Carroll Energy is exempt under the Internal Revenue Code and is not-for-profit. While our banker requires us to make a bit more than break-even, typically those revenue requirements are less than one-half to one-third of what other businesses require. This allows us to serve rural areas with a lower density per mile of line compared to an investor-owned or municipal utility system.

With over 930 electric co-ops operating in the United States, collectively co-ops account for a small share of total electric consumers (only 12 percent) but our lines cover 75 percent of this nation. Together, we deliver power to 42 million Americans in 47 states.

We brought electricity to this community to improve our quality of life. Nearly three-quarters of a century later we're still working to help our members and communities succeed.

History tells us when we band together, we can do anything. Together, we can build a better world.

This month, we also kick off a year-long celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives. The theme, "Cooperative enterprises build a better world," offers us a chance to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and reminds us of what's important—putting people first.

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

Board nominations now open for 2012 elections

Nominees sought for three seats

Three positions on Jo-Carroll Energy's Board of Directors will be filled during the 2012 election. Districts included are: District 5, now represented by Patricia Smith of Galena; District 7, now represented by David Senn of Mt. Carroll; and District 8, now represented by Russell Holesinger of Fulton.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director, may petition for nomination as director. Members interested in being elected to the board of directors may pick up a nomination petition at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquar-

ters at 793 U.S. Route 20 West in Elizabeth or download a petition from the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com

The petition must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which a director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquarters no earlier than Nov. 15 and not later than Feb. 16, 2012.

In order to qualify to have their names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors includ-

ing, but not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2012 Annual Meeting Book and in the cooperative's newsletter, Hi-Lines, found inside Illinois Country Living magazine.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws. The bylaws are posted on our website at www.jocarroll.com. Those without Internet access may request a copy by calling (800) 858-5522.

Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • July 27, 2011

The Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. Board of Directors met at the Holiday Inn Express in Springfield, Illinois on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, prior to the start of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Annual Meeting. The following is a summary of the meeting activities.

Chairman's Report-Chairman Mattingley urged everyone to attend the AIEC Resolutions Committee meeting on Thursday morning to show support for the efforts put forth with this committee and its accomplishments. Chairman Mattingley also commented on power supply issues.

Dairyland Report-Director Stadel reported that the Dairyland financials through June show its bottom line more than \$200,000 over budget. They also show that the cost of purchased power was more than budgeted. Director Stadel commented that Bill Berg discussed the pending line swaps being worked out by COO Buros. He mentioned that Dairyland will buy power from the Gundersen

Lutheran wind project for one year.

AIEC Report-There was no AIEC meeting due to the annual meeting.

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

Financial Operating Report - The CEO reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin for June of \$511,397.00.

Power Supply Report - CEO Hastings reported that efforts continue on evaluating the sources and availability of ongoing power supply for the Cooperative in the future.

Biomass Update - The CEO commented that work continues on evaluation of the status and benefit of continuing pursuit of the biomass plant.

Farmers Mutual Update - The CEO advised that discussions continue on issues of mutual benefit to both cooperatives.

External Affairs Update - Cox reported on the frustrating struggle proceeding in Washington and

Springfield as government spending and revenue issues get more and more difficult to resolve. He also reported on other legislative matters.

Board Issues

Discuss August Board meeting date -The Board agreed to reschedule the August Board meeting for August 25, 2011.

Result of the Director IT Analysis - Director Smith provided a report on the Director IT Analysis and worked with the Board to arrange assistance at the Cooperative for Directors related to use of technology for paperless Board meetings.

Approve Amendment to Line of Credit with CoBank -The Board agreed to amend the Master Loan Agreement with CoBank related to required equity levels.

Other Business

Director Werner reported on the Leadership Forum, which was held at Storybrook, Hanover, Illinois. Dorothy Young read a thank you card from Jack Janssen.

Home heating energy assistance available

Two agencies have funding available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program to assist low-income residents with their winter heating costs.

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for low-income families, in which heating bill payments are made on behalf of households.

Northwestern Illinois Communication Action Agency (NICAA) has funding available for the residents of Jo Daviess County while the Tri-County Opportunities Council can assist residents of Carroll and Whiteside counties.

Seniors and people with disabilities were able to begin applying for winter heating assistance through LIHEAP on Sept. 1. Households with children under the age of five can apply beginning Oct. 1. Individuals not eligible for priority enrollment can apply

beginning Nov. 1.

Customers are served on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.

When applying for assistance, the following documentation is required:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to the application date.
- A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if energy bills are paid directly).
- A copy of a rental agreement (if renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.
- Proof that the household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance

from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

A single-person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,361; a two-person household up to \$1,839; a family of three can earn up to \$2,316; and a family of four can earn up to \$2,794. Benefits are paid directly to utilities on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

If you reside in Jo Daviess County, call for an appointment: NICAA, Freeport office, (815) 232-3141 or (800) 883-1111, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you reside in Carroll or Whiteside counties, call for an appointment:

Tri-County, Rock Falls office, (815) 625-1172 or (800) 323-5434, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Jo-Carroll Energy offers single-phase users new rate option

Jo-Carroll Energy is offering electric single-phase users a new option as an alternative to the tiered rate schedule.

Approved by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors at its August meeting, the rate modification allows single-phase users to designate one of two options for standard service billing.

Option A is the current two-tier method with a monthly facility charge of \$25 and per kWh charges

of 9.5 cents for the first 1,500 kWh used and 13 cents for all kWh exceeding 1,500.

The new Option B includes a monthly facility charge of \$75 and an energy charge of 10.65 cents per kWh for all kWh used.

Members should evaluate their own individual usage to determine if they would benefit from the new Option B.

The time-of-day service option is still available, also. This option has

a \$25 per month facility charge and an on-peak energy charge of 18.1 cents per kWh and an off-peak energy charge of 6.5 cents per kWh.

A member who chooses Option B or time-of-day service will be required to stay on that rate for a minimum of one year. If you have questions or would like to discuss your options further, please call the co-op and ask for Pat Keleher.

Jo-Carroll Energy

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

Cooperative celebration!!!

October is Co-op Month; 2012 designated 'International Year of Cooperatives'

Members of the cooperative family take center stage globally in 2012 with the United Nations designation of the International Year of Cooperatives.

October is Co-op Month and this year we're taking the opportunity to celebrate year-long with the International Year of Cooperatives that officially kicks off Oct. 31. We'll begin the celebration here at Jo-Carroll Energy early in October, the month when U.S. cooperatives traditionally celebrate Co-op Month.

With "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World" as the theme for the year of cooperatives, we're planning a series of events to celebrate co-ops and our members and to help us get to know each other a little better.

Appreciation Days

We hope you'll stop by one of Jo-Carroll Energy's offices on Oct. 10 or 11 for our Appreciation Days. We'll host the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Elizabeth Headquarters on Monday, Oct. 10 and at our Savanna office on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Plan to have lunch on us! We'll serve a light lunch featuring grilled hot dogs along with chips and milk (from Prairie Farms, a local dairy cooperative).

Members can enter a drawing to win a complete home energy audit and a basic weatherization project to be completed by our own energy auditor John Scott, assisted by other Jo-Carroll Energy employees.



The audit includes a home walk-through, blower door test and infrared photos with follow-up report and recommendations. Jo-Carroll Energy will also complete some basic weatherization measures at the winner's home.

We'll have complete coverage of the audit process, the weatherization and resulting savings in future issues of Hi-Lines and on our website, as well as updates on Facebook and YouTube.

We'll also have a drawing at each location for a gift basket featuring cooperative products.

Concern for community is one of the key principles for all cooperatives. Help us help others by bringing along a donation for area food pantries as we kick-off our annual "Light Up the Holidays" food drive. We'll give you a CFL in exchange for your donation.

Guided tours of the Jo-Carroll Energy facilities will be offered at the Elizabeth event only. Oct. 10 is also the date for an American Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by Jo-Carroll Energy at the Elizabeth office. You

can find more information about the blood drive on page 16f.

Coffee with your co-op

And, we're just beginning the celebration in October. Watch for more information to come inviting you to "coffee with your co-op." We're planning a series of informal gatherings at area coffee shops for you to meet with Jo-Carroll Energy's board of directors, CEO and staff. You'll have the chance to join the conversation and ask questions about your cooperative.

Watch during the year for a bill insert about when a coffee will be held in your area.

Save the date

Looking ahead to 2012, save the date of Saturday, April 14, for the Annual Meeting of Members. More details about your annual meeting will be included in future newsletters and online along with additional activities throughout the coming year.

Co-ops build a better world

Cooperatives, including Jo-Carroll Energy, are local, independent businesses owned by those they serve. They share a common set of principles and values like self-help and democracy. Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members.

Co-ops are a major economic force not only at home but also around the world. One in every four Americans is a co-op member and more than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide.

Co-ops strive for sustainable development of communities through member-driven policies, with leaders elected by members. The innovative practices of co-ops provide consumer-focused solutions that can adapt quickly to change.

Co-op month/principles The Seven Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership

Democratic Member Control

Members' Economic Participation

Autonomy and Independence

Education, Training and Information

Cooperation among Cooperatives

Concern for Community

Congratulations to our 2012 Photo Calendar Contest winners

Congratulations to our 2012 Photo Calendar Contest winners! We received nearly 50 entries in our photo calendar contest, TogetherWeSee, a part of our celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives.

We'll open entries for our 2013

Photo Calendar Contest during October Co-op Month. Entries forms will be available during the Member Appreciation Days Oct. 10-11, and then online at both offices after those dates. Watch for more details!

Winners in the calendar contest include:

Donna Berlage
Derek Andre
Aimee Rogers
Karen Lenstra

Daryl Stienstra
Kelly Petersen
Susan Keppler
Trish Krug

Amy Graham
Lee Roberts
Ellyne Obermiller

Entry Form for Basic Weatherization of Home

Member Name: _____ Account Number: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone No.: (____) - ____ - _____

Member Signature: _____

1. Do you own the property? _____
2. Year home was built (*prior to 1990 required*)? _____
3. What is your home's square footage? _____
4. Is the foundation a basement, crawlspace, slab, or a combination? _____
5. Is there easy access to the basement or crawlspace? _____
6. Number of bedrooms? _____
7. Number of people living within the home? _____
8. Do you experience air leakage from around doors and windows? _____
9. Is there easy access to the attic? _____
10. How many of each type of lighting do you have within the home?
Incandescent: _____
CFL: _____
LED: _____
11. Do you have any occupancy sensors within the home? _____

12. What type & what amount of insulation is within the attic? _____

13. Summary of recent upgrades within the past 5 years:
Windows: _____
Furnace & A/C: _____
Water Heater: _____
Appliances: _____

Winner of the Basic Weatherization acknowledges that Jo-Carroll Energy (NFP) will have permission to complete a beginning energy audit on the home, basic weatherization of the home with the help of Jo-Carroll Energy employees, complete a follow-up energy audit, and publish possible energy savings throughout the following year. The Basic Weatherization of the home will be completed during the beginning of the month of December.

Karl Stodden Construction, Inc. (Galena)

Karl Stodden's love for construction began as a child. This love grew into a career after Stodden graduated from the Jo Daviess County Area Vocational Center (AVC) and soon began working for a local contractor.

When jobs got fewer, Stodden set out to find additional work doing odd jobs in the community. This sparked a desire to help others by using his talents and in 1997 he started his own construction business. In 2005 Karl Stodden Construction became incorporated and today he is safety certified, licensed and insured for both residential and commercial construction.

New homes, additions, decks, water damage repair, painting, hard wood flooring, landscaping and custom mirrors and doors, Stodden has done it all. When other contractors said a job could not be done, Stodden proved them wrong.

"I love taking the homeowner's ideas and giving them what they want at a reasonable price," said Stodden. He is known for taking a small budget and making a big impact. "A lot of little stuff goes a long way," advised Stodden.

Winter is fast approaching and now is the time to ready your home. Stodden can help you save your home from high-energy usage by



sealing leaks and installing insulation. His weatherization package begins with a blower-door test of your home and ends with no more than two days of care.

Property maintenance is a new service Stodden would like to see grow. "I've saved two homes from freezing," stated Stodden, when asked about the benefits of this service. If you need someone to watch your home while you are on vacation, or your second home is located in Jo-Daviess County, Stodden will gladly resume responsibility of car-

ing for it while you are away.

Stodden's service territory spans across Jo-Daviess County and reaches into Dubuque, Iowa. New customers are valued and return customers receive 10 percent off automatically. "You don't even have to ask for this discount," Stodden said.

It is important to the Stodden family to give back to the communities in which they work. Stodden always buys locally and every year donates a percentage of his sales in each community to a local organization in each community. Stodden truly cares for his customers beyond the walls of their home.

Jo-Carroll Energy Members save 10 percent off labor costs with their Co-op Connections Card. Call Karl at 815-777-3088 or visit www.galenacontractorandrealtor.com for more information about Karl Stodden Construction, Inc.

Offer Change

Outback Dee-Zign Salon & Spa in Savanna has changed its Co-op Connections Card offer. The new offer is:

10% off retail products (hair & body), or wedding, prom, or special occasion updo hairstyles.

5% off Acrylic Nails, Pedicures, Facials & Body Waxing.



Jo-Carroll Energy Blood Drive

Monday, October 10
10:30 am – 3:30 pm
American Red Cross Bus
Elizabeth Headquarters

For an appointment, call Heidi at 800-858-5522 ext 1208 or visit redcrossblood.org

Community members welcome!

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

October is Energy Awareness Month

How much energy can you save?

October is Energy Awareness Month, and a good time to take a look at the energy we use and to take steps to use less of it. Not only will we save money on our energy bills, but also we provide environmental benefits as less power needs to be generated.

Jo-Carroll Energy recommends an energy assessment or home energy audit to find areas of your home that might be wasting energy (see related story below).

October is also a good month to look for those “phantoms” or “energy vampires”— electronic and electrical devices that continue to suck electricity even when turned off. On average, these items are responsible for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity you use every month.

Here’s a tip from Jo-Carroll Energy that can help you drive a stake through the heart of these vampires.

With knowledge comes power.

Discover and eliminate vampires with a **KILL-A-WATT™** meter.

Check one out at your local library and plug into savings today.



Identify energy vampires by looking for devices with remote controls, TVs, DVRs and audio equipment for example. Then target gaming consoles, computers, monitors and printers as well as chargers for all your electronic devices. Chargers draw energy even when they’re not charging anything.

An easy way to seal the coffin on energy vampires is to plug components of your computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. With a single flip of a switch, you can fully cut power to them.

Don’t forget to unplug any appli-

ances with digital clocks, such as coffee makers and toaster ovens, when you aren’t using them.

If you want to find out how much power these phantoms and vampires are using, plug a kilowatt meter into an outlet and the appliance into the watt meter. Turn the device on and note the watts use. Then turn the device off to see how much phantom power it uses.

For more tips on how to save energy — and money — visit www.TogetherWeSave.com or call the efficiency experts at Jo-Carroll Energy, 800-858-5522.

Don’t let electrical hazards haunt Halloween

Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year. But don’t make yours filled with danger. Whether indoors or outside, remember to think about safety.

- As you’re decorating, make sure you check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections.
- Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.
- Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and remains a safe distance from anything flammable, like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not

coil extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.

- Make sure all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren’t, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug.
- Don’t overload outlets with too many extensions cords and strands of lights.
- Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use. You don’t want them to trip.
- Leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters and be sure to turn out all the spooky lights and decorations before leaving home



or going to bed. This will also save energy.

For more electrical safety trips, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

New transformer in place at Sand Ridge substation



A 98,500-pound transformer was installed at the Sand Ridge substation in August as part of system improvements at the substation adjacent to the Rentech facility.

The 10 mega-volt-amp (MVA) transformer replaces a smaller 5 MVA transformer that was due for replacement. System improvements will create increased reliability to the Rentech Energy facilities, which employs many cooperative members, noted Jesse Shekleton, manager of electric operations.

In addition to the new transformer, other substation infrastructure such as the bus work and switches were upgraded. Jo-Carroll Energy's mobile substation was deployed earlier this year to pick up the load normally carried by the 5 MVA transformer being replaced, allowing crews to retire, construct

and install the new 10 MVA transformer and supporting infrastructure, Shekleton said.

Also of significant importance are the environmental improvements made by the installation of a new oil containment system, an addition that supports one of Jo-Carroll Energy's core values — environmental stewardship, he continued.

"More than 12 utilities and related contractors have been onsite to complete work related to the upgrade, making coordination efforts of utmost importance and significantly challenging," Shekleton said.

All Jo-Carroll Energy work is being done parallel to Rentech's plant maintenance and shutdown schedule, he noted. Oct. 3 is the target date for the substation to be back to full load.

