



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

What's your legacy?

It all started with one single light bulb.

When Jo-Carroll Energy energized its first lines serving members in 1939, it changed everything. One wire; one switch at a time the power to the countryside changed the way we worked, the way we played, the way we lived.

In the 1930s electric co-ops demonstrated their vision for a more productive rural America by committing to deliver electricity to the very last house on the line. With every pole placed, with every line extended, our communities grew. And as they grew, we stood by our purpose ... to bring reliable, affordable electricity to a growing membership.

The International Year of Cooperatives gives us a chance to honor that legacy of service, innovation and community involvement.

We think that cooperative enterprises build a better world, and we're working for a brighter future. Our mission now is much more than keeping your lights on. We exist to improve the quality of life for our members.

The board, management and employees of Jo-Carroll Energy are committed to providing solutions to help meet the needs of our members today ... and tomorrow. As a local business, your cooperative has always looked for ways to make a difference — beyond delivering energy and services. We work hard

for our communities because we are a part of them. Local people working for local good.

Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities and work to make life better in the communities they serve — the heart of the cooperative difference.

Education is another vital focus. We provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model and how legislation will affect our members.

Co-ops are different than other forms of businesses because of you, our members, and because of the way decisions are made. In a cooperative, member participation is crucial. That's why it is important for you to be involved in how your co-op operates and let us know when issues arise that need our attention.

Our actions are our legacy whether it's our commitment to providing reliable service, offering information about energy efficiency or volunteering in our communities and working with local businesses to help build the local economy.

What about you? What kind of legacy do you want to create? You can keep the cooperative spirit alive by working with us to power the future.

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

Jo-Carroll Energy

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Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • August 25, 2011

The Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) Board of Directors met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Thursday, August 25, 2011. The following is a summary of the meeting activities:

Alliant Energy Power Supply Contract Presentation—Mike Bremel and Brian Hood of Alliant Energy spoke about the current Power Supply Contract which Alliant Energy has with Jo-Carroll Energy.

Chairman's Report—Chairman Mattingley commented on the resolutions review process with the AIEC. He enjoyed the Chairmen's meeting at the AIEC Annual Meeting. He stated Director Senn will serve in the NRECA resolution review process.

Dairyland Report—Director Stadel reported that the investment fund for the nuclear decommissioning project had lost funds in the recent stock market downturn. He commented on other events at Dairyland.

AIEC Report—Director Smith stated the AIEC board discussed the regulatory process, questions on Smart Grid and education grant checks from CFC.

Strategic Activity—Director Lundy reviewed monthly Board Policy Number 102A entitled **Qualifications for a Director of Jo-Carroll Energy**. The board approved the policy as presented while requiring a correction to place in the policy of the current co-op Mission Statement.

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

- a. **Financial Operating Report**—The CEO reported an unaudited margin for July of \$402,909.
- b. **Power Supply Report**—CEO Hastings reported that staff continues to work on power supply issues.
- c. **Danisco Update**—Hastings advised the Board that no agreement had yet been reached with Danisco.
- d. **Biomass Update**—Staff and consultants continue to work with vendors on construction and materials issues and reported on the ongoing efforts to identify a partner or partners for the project.
- e. **Farmers Mutual Report**—The CEO advised that co-op continues to work with Farmers Mutual on joint efforts that would be mutually beneficial.

- f. **Badger Group Update**—The CEO and the staff are working with the other co-ops to review the current power market.
- g. **TCEDA Update**—The CEO reported on the recent Executive Committee Meeting where an agreement was signed with Jo-Carroll Energy for Executive Director services.
- h. **CFO Report**—CFO Heidenreich reported on her efforts to reduce the interest rate on Jo-Carroll Energy borrowings and other successful cost control efforts.
- i. **CAO Report**—The CAO introduced Cindy Lenz, Jo-Carroll Energy's new Manager of Economic Development. He then discussed the Culture of Excellence process at Jo-Carroll Energy.
- j. **COO Report**—The COO reviewed storm damage in July and efforts in response.
- k. **External Affairs Update**—Cox reported on Congress finally resolving the issue of extending the debt limit.

Board Issues

- a. **Regulatory Compliance Database Report**—Dorothy Waters reported on her efforts to create a data base identifying the numerous areas of regulatory compliance, reporting needs and timeline issues related to compliance.
- b. **Rate Modification**—Pat Keleher, Energy Services, presented a new Small General Service Option B to the Single Phase Rate. The board approved the change.
- c. **Consideration of Dairyland Resolution**—The CEO discussed a resolution requested by other cooperatives regarding Dairyland Power Cooperative. The Board elected to take no action on the request at this time.
- d. **National Energy Policy and Facilitation and Use of Domestic Fuels**—Director Senn urged the Board to, by consensus, support this resolution and to take that support to the NRECA Region V meeting. The Board agreed.
- e. **CFC 2010 Key Ratio Analysis**—The CEO reviewed the various financial ratios provided by CFC.
- f. **Bivins Business Breakfast**—Directors Stanger, Smith, Senn, and spouses agreed to attend the Bivins event along with Simpson, Dorothy Young, John Cox and his spouse on behalf of Illinois ACRE.
- g. **Sacia Fundraiser**—Director Carroll and his spouse and Director Stanger and her spouse will be attending the Sacia fundraising event at Massbach Ridge Winery on September 18, 2011 on behalf of Illinois ACRE.
- h. **Jacobs' Fundraiser**—Director Stanger and her spouse as well as Director Smith, Director Holesinger and his spouse, attended the Jacobs' fundraiser in Moline following the Board meeting on behalf of Illinois ACRE.
- i. **RESCO Voting Delegate**—Director Smith was nominated to serve as the RESCO Voting Delegate.
- j. **Annual Meeting Date/Committee Meeting Date**—The board approved the date for the 2012 Annual Meeting as April 14, 2012. The Committee will meet following the September Board Meeting.
- k. **Distributed Generation Fees – Rates**—COO Buros presented proposed General Interconnection Procedures including a fee structure related to distributed energy projects. The board approved the proposed fee structure.
- l. **Jo-Carroll – Dairyland – IPL – Load Swap Agreement**—The CEO briefly reviewed a Load Swap Agreement with our power suppliers to facilitate more reasonable management of power supply throughout the Jo-Carroll Energy electric distribution system. The draft agreement would identify retail service area boundaries, “swap” certain load areas between IPL and Dairyland, and transfer some assets between Dairyland and Jo-Carroll Energy. The board approved the proposed agreement.
- m. **November Director Coffee Dates: Holesinger/Senn/Smith**—Directors agreed that they would be discussing with the CEO and Dorothy Young arrangements for coffees with members.

Adjournment—The board meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Jo-Carroll Energy recognizes Metform as 2011 Focus Member

Metform of Savanna is the recipient of the first ever Focus Member award presented by Jo-Carroll Energy during a meeting for the cooperative's key accounts on Sept. 22.

During the past year, Jo-Carroll Energy worked closely with Metform as a new substation was completed in record time to help support installation of new equipment and increased production at the Savanna facility.

"This is our first Focus Award," said Michael Hastings, Jo-Carroll Energy president and CEO, "and we wanted to recognize Metform for the work they've done for economic development and implementation of this project."

Ken Sivertsen, Jo-Carroll Energy key accounts manager, said he was proud to recognize Metform as the first recipient of this award. He noted that the Focus Member is one that, like Jo-Carroll Energy, exhibits the cooperative spirit.

Also like Jo-Carroll Energy, the Focus Member has very dedicated employees, exhibits fiscal responsibility in all investment decisions, holds community and economic growth in high regard and utilizes advanced technology to maintain and extend its competitive advantage, he added.

Sivertsen stressed how teams from Metform and Jo-Carroll Energy worked together "through the easy stuff and tough stuff" over the past year to realize completion of the new substation and installation of the key piece of production equipment at Metform.

"All of us watched as an acre of sandy soil became, in record time, a new technically advanced substation for the cooperative," he said. "We all waited in anticipation for a key piece of production equipment

to be built, delivered and placed into service (at Metform)."

Matthias Praus, Metform vice president and general manager, said the installation of the new Hatebur AMP50 at the Savanna facility is the single largest capital equipment project Metform and its parent company MacLean-Fogg has ever initiated.

A project like this "depends so much on having strong partners around it," he said. "We could not have done it in the timeframe and in the quality without Jo-Carroll Energy."

Calling the new substation a masterpiece and "outstanding accomplishment of Jo-Carroll Energy," Praus thanked the cooperative for the support it provided the project, adding it will help the company grow. Metform with its 250 employees and 3 facilities in Savanna and Mount Carroll is a recognized industry leader in the global forging business.

Since ground breaking in 1976 Metform has become a trusted and competitive quality partner of its customers in the Automotive, Heavy Truck, Off-Highway and Wind Energy industry. Metform engineers and manufactures forged and machined precision components for powertrain, driveline, suspension and specialty fastening solutions and supplies annually more than 100,000,000 components to customers in the US, Canada,



Jo-Carroll Energy President and CEO Michael Hastings (left) presents Mathias Praus, Metform vice president and general manager, with the cooperative's first ever Focus Member Award during the 2011 Key Accounts meeting.

Mexico, South America, Europe and Asia.

Metform is one of the core businesses of the privately owned MacLean-Fogg Components Solutions, located in Mundelein, IL with more than 2,500 employees worldwide. **WIMA**

Metform's target is to further grow the 'Global Reach' while counting on the 'Local Expertise and Excellence' in our Illinois operations – supporting the local economic development.



Our offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

Budget billing accounts recalculate in November

Members with budget billing will have their budget amounts recalculated in November.

Because your budget amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' actual charges and payments, the November recalculation could result in a higher or lower monthly budget amount than what you pay now.

The billing statement you receive in November will show your new budget amount. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will appear on your statement indicating this is a new amount. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained the same.

If you have more than one billing account on budget, it is possible that one or both amounts may change.



You begin paying the new budget amount in December.

Budget billing can help you manage your energy costs by allowing you to allocate the same amount each month. Monthly utility bills can vary significantly throughout the year due to cold winters and hot, humid summers. With Jo-Carroll Energy's budget billing plan you can levelize your payments throughout the year, removing

the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and usage patterns.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing or your budget bill account with Jo-Carroll Energy, please contact the Member Services Department at (800) 858-5522. You can find more information about budget billing on our website at www.jocarroll.com.

Seal cracks to save energy, money

Finding and sealing air leaks can save you energy and money. Here's a tip from Jo-Carroll Energy that can help keep your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter while lowering your utility bills.

Caulking cracks and openings can save you \$212 a year. Find cracks by waiting for a windy day and then carefully holding a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical

outlets, and other spots where outside air may infiltrate. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

Experts recommend using waterproof, flexible, and long-lasting silicone caulk to seal cracks and gaps that are less than one-quarter-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk.

Fresh caulk takes several hours, or

longer, to dry, so it's best to do the job on a dry day when humidity is relatively low and the temperature is above 45 degrees F. In addition to caulk, you can use low-expansion spray foam to seal leaks.

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



I'M TIGHT WITH MY MONEY. AIRTIGHT.

I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Jo-Carroll Energy
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds offer help when needed

If you need assistance paying your energy bill this winter, help may be available through Jo-Carroll Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds.

This program works in tandem with the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

If funds are available, you may receive a grant from the Neighbor to Neighbor funds. To find out if you qualify, contact your respective

agency below to start the application process:

- Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA): Jo Daviess County. 1-815-232-3141
- Tri-County Opportunities Council: Carroll and Whiteside counties. 1-800-323-5434

*Warm someone's holiday
with the gift of energy.*

Holiday Energy Credit

A wonderful holiday gift idea for any
Jo-Carroll Energy member!

Certificates are available in any amount, and are applied to the member's energy bill for the amount purchased. We'll supply a gift card you can send the recipient.

Ask any billing service representative for more information.



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®



Help brighten someone's holiday and take part in Jo-Carroll Energy's annual holiday food drive.

Donations of nonperishable items will be accepted at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices in Elizabeth and Savanna through Dec. 22.

Donated items will be distributed to food pantries in the cooperative's service territory. Last year cooperative employees and members donated more than 850 pounds of nonperishable foods, paper goods and other items.

Those who contribute to the food drive will receive a CFL.

East Dubuque

131 Sinsinawa Ave.

United Churches of Galena

Galena State Bank

Elizabeth Food Basket

1564 U.S. Route 20 East
(Old Elizabeth School)

Hanover Food Bank

Old Hanover School

Savanna/Mt. Carroll

Great River Outreach Building

Chadwick/Milledgeville

United Methodist Church,
Milledgeville

Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry

Senior Center Building

Albany Food Pantry

United Methodist Church

Erie Food Pantry

734 Main Street - Use alley
entrance



Cindy's Classic Catering, Galena

All of the women in Cindy Wickler's family are in food service. Her mother, sisters and niece all love sharing their talents in the kitchen with others, and when it runs in the family you know it tastes great.

Wickler has served Galena and the surrounding area with Cindy's Classic Catering for twelve years this November. Before starting her own business, Wickler gained her experience and joy of cooking working over 8 years in the deli and bakery industry.

With her culinary skill and her desire to grow her career, Wickler brought her talents to the Taste of Galena. This event sparked an explosion of ideas and since then, Cindy's Classic Catering has been bursting with business.

"It's a learning experience," said Wickler. After 12 years of service, she learned that what makes Cindy's Classic Catering stand out from the rest is her affordable and realistic pricing and her ability to cater to the customer.

Wickler seldom says no to what the customer wants. She has served meals for as few as two people to upwards of 1,100. Golf outings, birthday parties, meetings, and more, she's not just a wedding caterer.

If you are looking for a wed-



ding coordinator, Wickler can help. Beyond the incredible meal, Wickler has helped many couples plan, decorate and oversee their big day. With a limit of only one wedding per weekend, the bride and groom can enjoy the day while Wickler focuses on the details.

For smaller meals, a twenty-four hour notice is all she needs to bring her best. Whether you want buffet, family style, plated or "meals to-go", Wickler does it all. But what

is more important than variety is loyalty. In a struggling recession, Cindy's Classic Catering has seen growth every year since its start, proving that her customers keep coming back.

"My favorite part about this job is meeting interesting and fun people," stated Wickler. Throughout her kitchen, home and life are framed thank-you notes from your neighbors. Customers from Galena, Jo-Daviess County and beyond have been ever grateful of Cindy's Classic Catering and Wickler is even more grateful for her customers.

Call Cindy Wickler at 815-777-1851 or visit her Facebook page to find out how Cindy's Classic Catering can cater to you. All Jo-Carroll Energy members save 10% off any catered event when they present their Co-op Connections Card at payment.

Jo-Carroll Energy offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



Jo-Carroll Energy offers 2012 scholarships

Jo-Carroll Energy will award five \$500 scholarships to high school seniors in 2011.

This is the tenth year Jo-Carroll Energy has awarded scholarships to the sons and daughters of the cooperative's members.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist member families," said Michael Hastings, Jo-Carroll Energy president and CEO. "We want to make a difference in our communities and we think lending our youth a hand is one of the best ways to do this."

Current high schools seniors, whose parents are members of Jo-Carroll Energy, are encouraged to apply for the scholarships. Two scholarships will be awarded in both Jo Daviess and Carroll counties and one in Whiteside County.

Applicants must be a current high school senior and a son or daughter of a Jo-Carroll Energy

member who is receiving services from the cooperative at the time the application is submitted.

Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two- or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools and lineworker's school.

Scholarship winners must begin undergraduate studies within one year of being notified that they have won. Scholarship winners are expected to be full-time students (at least 12 hours). Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.

The awards will be based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience and participation in school and community activities. Applicants must also submit a brief biographical statement with emphasis on the student's citizenship, leadership and character and include the student's career goals and how the scholar-

ship will help them achieve those goals. Applicants must also submit a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of cooperatives and the value of the co-op to its members and community. Two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher or other school personnel and one from a community member who is familiar with the student, must accompany the application.

Deadline for application for the Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarships is Jan. 31, 2012. Scholarship winners will be notified by May of 2012. Application forms are available from local school guidance counselors, at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices in Elizabeth and Savanna and online at www.jocarroll.com

For further information or questions, please contact Peggy Francomb, corporate communications manager at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218.

Statewide scholarships available to high school seniors

Illinois electric cooperatives will award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family."

In addition, an eighth scholarship to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school will be awarded.

The eight scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2012 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who

is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

An eighth annual scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,250 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield.

LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power

Electric Cooperative from 1949 to 1991. He and his wife endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

For more information regarding these scholarships, contact Peggy Francomb, Jo-Carroll Energy corporate communications manager. Application forms and information are available from area high school guidance counselors, at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices in Elizabeth and Savanna and online at www.jocarroll.com.



Nominations sought for three seats on board of directors

Three seats on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors will be filled during the 2012 election. 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.

Districts included are: District 5, incumbent Pat Smith of Galena; District 7, incumbent David Senn of Mt. Carroll; and District 8, incumbent Russell Holesinger of Fulton.

Members interested in being elected to the board of directors may pick up a nominating petition at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquarters 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 including, but not limited to, time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary responsibilities.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the April 2012 issue of *Illinois Country Living* and in the 2012 Annual Meeting book.

Elections are conducted by mail prior to the cooperative's annual meeting in April.

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



Start the conversation and let us know how Jo-Carroll Energy can enhance the quality of life of our members. Join us for Coffee with your Co-op. A series of Coffee with your Co-op sessions will happen throughout the Jo-Carroll Energy service territory starting in November. Jo-Carroll Energy district directors as well as President and CEO will be available in your hometown to answer your questions about your cooperative. Visit www.jocarroll.com for more

information about your directors and these upcoming events.

Coffee with your Co-op



Jo-Carroll Energy

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Photo Contest!

Share your photos that illustrate the cooperative lifestyle. Visit www.jocarroll.com for details on how to enter our 2012 photo contest!

800-858-5522
www.jocarroll.com
my.connectSP.com

COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES
BUILD A BETTER WORLD.

COFFEE WITH YOUR CO-OP

electric • natural gas • high-speed internet