

Jo-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

It's that time of year again—the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us. That means spending time with friends and family, exchanging gifts and a sense of goodwill. The holidays also are a good time to reflect and give thanks for the blessings in our lives and as a cooperative.

It takes a lot of hard work by a lot of people to build from our heritage and put the values of cooperatives into action. Maybe it seems obvious in retrospect, but there was a time when getting electricity outside of the city limits wasn't a given. The spirit of community that co-ops were built on continues to thrive.

During the recent economic downturn many local businesses have struggled to survive and we've seen some shut their doors. The lure of lower prices in nearby cities tempts many to shop elsewhere instead of locally. As you're planning for the holiday season, I hope you'll support our communities and take some time to shop locally.

A trip down the street can save you both time and money. Shopping stores owned and operated by your neighbors pays off in many ways. When you shop locally your money helps grows local jobs, and even generates more local spending. When you support jobs in your local communities, you help keep the doors open for key businesses that make our communities stronger and more viable.

Across our territory local stores are packed with an incredible variety of goods, often at more reasonable prices. And, when you shop locally, look for the Co-op Connections logo. Many of our local merchants offer extra savings to Jo-Carroll Energy members through the Co-op Connections Card.

The more we shop locally, the more employment, better tax base and higher quality of life we'll enjoy in our communities.

Supporting the local economy is a natural for your local cooperative where we answer to Main Street not Wall Street, to our members not stockholders. One of our core principles is "concern for community". It's one of the reasons Jo-Carroll Energy takes a leadership role

in the economic development efforts of the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance. We take this role very seriously because we know that new industry and businesses mean new jobs, and new jobs mean greater prosperity and a better quality of life for our members. We've seen some good economic news in the past few weeks, from expansions at Rentech and Metform to the announcement of the sale of the Thomson Correctional Center to the federal government.

We continue to support Rentech in their expansion at East Dubuque, providing electric facilities and other assistance as requested.

We've worked closely with Sen. Durbin's office on the prison in Thompson, and are very pleased it is now being funded. TCEDA continues to function as the go to local entity for communicating information to Carroll County and the surrounding areas regarding the prison transfer. We'll be assisting communities to develop a packet for new employees coming into the area regarding asset inventory and services available.

Jo-Carroll Energy and TCEDA also worked closely with Mathias Praus and other Metform officials to support their efforts in expanding employment at their facility south of Savanna. We also continue to work with the LRA in economic development activities as well as several other projects that are encouraging in terms of economic growth and job availability in the area.

We've been serving our members for nearly 75 years delivering reliable, safe and affordable electric and now natural gas and broadband services. We've always known we're more than just a utility—we're part of the community. At Jo-Carroll Energy we're committed to helping our communities grow and develop.

Thank you for your business this past year, and we look forward to serving you for many years to come. On behalf of Jo-Carroll Energy's board and employees, have a safe and happy holiday season. May peace and prosperity be yours now and throughout the New Year.

Illinois Country Living • December 2012 • 16a

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

Joe Mattingley
Chairman

District 2

Chris Stadel
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

David Senn
Treasurer
District 7

Martin Werner District 1

Patricia Smith District 5

Thomas Lundy District 6

Russell Holesinger District 8

Larry Carroll
District 9

Office Hours:

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Savanna

103 Chicago Ave. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522 www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call: (800) 927-5254

Holiday Closings

Jo-Carroll Energy's offices will be closed on

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25

for the Christmas holiday, and on

Tuesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • September 26, 2012

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda as modified and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report - The Chairman discussed the NRECA Region 5 & 6 meeting held in Minneapolis and emphasized that the resolution process is greatly improving and congratulated Director Senn in his role as chair of the committee.

Dairyland Report - Director Stadel commented on the recent board meeting where NRECA dues were approved as well as funding to get into the CAPEX Funding Project.

AIEC Report – In that there was no meeting, Director Senn stated that there was no report.

APGA Report – Director Holesinger commented on the APGA meeting scheduled for November. He stated that he will be attending a webinar for the Net 0 Project.

Monthly Committee Review

- **a. Policy**–Policy 110 entitled Approval of Consultants was approved as presented.
- b. Annual Meeting Planning Committee Report—The Committee reported that the 2013 Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting will be held in Elizabeth, Illinois.
- c. Policy Committee Report–Policy 114
 entitled Contributions and Donations was
 approved with the recommended revisions.
 A new board policy 143 entitled AMI
 Opt-Out Program clarifying Cooperative
 policy regarding those who wish to refuse
 new AMI meters was approved.

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

- a. Financial Operating Report CEO reported the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of -\$340,362 for August.
- b. Power Supply Report Hastings stated little has changed in the litigation with Interstate Power & Light (IPL).
- c. Power Plant Report Hastings stated that efforts are on hold pending resolution of the IPL case.
- d. Farmers Mutual Report The CEO stated that Farmers Mutual Electric Company (FMEC) approved a merger with Jo-Carroll Energy. A special member meeting for FMEC is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2012. An informational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2012.
- e. Metform Update CEO Hastings stated that Metform's new project will lead to 60-80 additional jobs.
- **f. COO Report** Buros stated that he has no report.
- g. Culture of Excellence and
 Communications Sevey reported that

- the Culture of Excellence process worked well through the recent contract negotiations with excellent input from employees.
- h. Member Services Skien reported on an employee instigated project to raise funds for the American Red Cross. She also reported that the effort to unbundle Jo-Carroll Energy bills is moving forward.
- i. External Affairs Update Cox reported on activities in Washington and Springfield related to Cooperative concern. Al Griffiths, Executive Director of TCEDA, is assuring several projects continue to progress well.

Board Issues

- a. Deregulation Discussion (from August 2012 Board Meeting) - CEO Hastings reviewed the Public Utilities Act at the request of the AIEC. A motion was approved affirming an earlier decision not to open up the Cooperative and not to become a power marketer as it will lead to cost increases to Jo-Carroll Energy members to do so.
- **b. NRECA Annual Meeting -** The Board reviewed information.
- c. Blood Drive, October 8, 2012 The Board was encouraged to consider a sign-up sheet for the Blood Drive.
- **d. Bivins Event** Directors were identified who would attend the event.
- e. Form 990 Directors filled out information forms to assist in preparation of the Form 990.
- f. Discuss a "Budget" Board Meeting in December - The Board agreed to schedule a meeting on December 18, 2012.
- g. Capital Credit Retirement Approved capital credit retirement to members in the amount of \$307,000.
- h. AMI Opt-Out Rate Tariff/Policy 701C -Skien explained new rate Board Policy 701C and it was approved.
- Review of PCA Rate Reduction -Approved to keep the PCA at the reduced rate.

Director Smith commented on the Galena Solar Project Open House. Those present were very pleased with the Jo-Carroll Energy staff in assisting the City of Galena in that huge effort.

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

Other Business - Director Holesinger stated his interest in attending the Dairyland Power meeting with Chairman Mattingley and CEO Hastings.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

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Jo-Carroll Energy staffer kisses pig for charity

To-Carroll Energy's vice president of human resources Merri Sevey puckered up to kiss a pig as part of an employee-driven fundraiser to benefit the American Red Cross. During the past month Jo-Carroll Energy senior staff members participated in a "Kiss the Pig" silver drop to raise \$660 in employee donations. Employees donated their spare change to whichever senior staff member they wanted to see kiss a pig-silver coins were positive points while pennies and bills meant negative points. Local farmer Tom Arnold brought a baby pig to the October employee meeting at the co-op for

The competition was fierce during the month, spurred by a "Rock the Pink" day with the staff member wearing the most pink receiving a generous donation of pennies to their jar and the least pink a contribution of silver. In the end Sevey swept the competition accumulating the most points in the silver drop, followed by Dorothy Young, executive assistant.

the big reveal of the winner.

The competition was neck-andneck between Sevey and Kyle Buros, chief operating officer, until the last day of the fundraiser. Sevey contends that questionable campaign tactics may have tipped the balance. "I'm not sure, but I think John Cox (vice president of external affairs and general counsel) may have had something to do with it," she joked.

"It's not really an award you want to win, but it was for a good cause," Sevey added. "The event was a lot of fun for all the employees, and the purpose was to benefit a good cause."

Other senior staff members participating included Michael

Hastings, president and CEO; Jennifer Skien, vice president of member services; and Tracy Heidenreich, chief financial officer. The money raised was donated to two area chapters of the Red Cross—the Gateway chapter that serves Whiteside County and the Northwest Illinois chapter serving Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. The silver drop fundraiser was a part of October Co-op Month activities at Jo-Carroll Energy. An American Red Cross Blood Drive coincided with a member appreciation event on Oct. 8 at the co-op's Elizabeth headquarters. The co-op exceeded its goal of 25 units with 29 units donated and 32 donors at the drive.

During October, co-op employees and directors greeted more than 500 members at appreciation days held throughout the cooperative's service territory in Elizabeth, Savanna, Fulton and Erie. A free hot dog lunch was served at each event, and children were encouraged to "dress like a lineman" and have their photo taken.

Jo-Carroll Energy joins with cooperatives across the nation in celebrating National Cooperative Month in October. This year is particularly special as the United Nations designated 2012 as

the International Year of Cooperatives, recognizing that "Cooperative enterprises build a better world." The year-long celebration at Jo-Carroll Energy kicked off in October 2011.

As part of the ongoing celebration cooperative
employees have supported a
variety of local charities with
"T-Shirt Fridays"—a fundraiser
that allows employees to wear
t-shirts (featuring "Cooperatives
build a better world" and "Power
of Community" themes) to work
by making a \$1 contribution. The
money raised is donated to a different employee nominated local organization or charity each month.

Jo-Carroll Energy employees and board members also are tracking their volunteer hours, with a goal of reaching a collective total of 2012 hours for the year.

"Jo-Carroll Energy is proud to be a part of America's cooperative network," said Hastings. "We think activities like this demonstrate what being a cooperative really means, and our commitment to our local communities." spira adof

Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions employ more than 850,000 people and generate nearly \$500 billion in revenue. Cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve, capital credits and special benefits and services.

Light Up the Holidays annual food drive

elp 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. 21.

Donated items will be distributed to food pantries in the cooperative's service territory. Last year cooperative employees and members donated more than 805 pounds of nonperishable foods, paper goods and other items.

Those who contribute to the food drive will receive a CFL (while supplies last).

Food pantries include:

- East Dubuque 131 Sinsinawa Ave.
- United Churches of Galena Galena State Bank
- 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



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.



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Director Profile: Martin Werner - District 1

Martin Werner of East Dubuque has been a member of the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors since soon after he became a co-op member following the co-op's acquisition of former Alliant Energy territory.

Werner, who represents District 1, was first elected to the board in 2007. "It was something new," he said, "and my brother who was a member of Jo-Carroll Energy for a number of years spoke highly of the co-op. Besides, I was retired and had time to devote to the board."

Since becoming a Jo-Carroll Energy member and joining the board, Werner has learned much about the cooperative business model. "I'd heard of co-ops, but Jo-Carroll Energy was my first involvement with one," he said. And, he thinks people need a better understanding of what a co-op is.

co-op is.

"So many people think they are a customer," he said. "I try to get across to them as best I can what a co-op is. It's the best of all worlds. It's a fair way of doing business. Everybody is the same in the co-op; everybody is a member; and everybody is equal. In an investor-owned utility it's not that way."

Werner takes pride in the emphasis the Jo-Carroll Energy board places on education and training. Directors are encouraged, by policy, to continue their education through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director program in which directors learn more about co-op values and principles, the utility business and governance skills. He noted Jo-Carroll Energy currently has fully credentialed board leadership. He himself has his 25th session coming up next month.



"This board is very high on training," he said. "You get information from each class about laws and regulations, and the importance of the decisions you make. It's a good all-around training, and gets into management of the co-op but not micro-managing."

"We have to make informed decisions," he continued, "We try to have consensus when it comes to the end of the meeting. You don't just stick up for your particular area--you have to look at the whole picture."

Turning to the challenges and concerns the board faces, Werner noted that rates are what everyone seems to talk about. "We hear from members about rates a lot," he said. "Every once in awhile someone talks about their bill going down, but often it's 'my bill is too high'.

"We need to find power suppliers that are cheaper, and we are doing that," he said, adding a reminder that directors are members themselves. "It's our job to get the best rate that we can. It's what we do—keep costs down."

Emphasizing today's reliance on electronics and energy, Werner noted, "A lot of times I compare it to their TV bill: how

much do you pay for that; how much to you pay for your cell phones—things that are really conveniences. None of those conveniences would operate without electricity. If we ever lose electricity, it will be a lost world."

Since he came on the board following the acquisition the cooperative hasn't seen much growth, but the potential exists, he said. "We're always looking for ways to expand, so we can spread costs over more members."

Economic development is important to the co-op, he continued. "You have to think of the big picture, not just one particular area, develop from one end to the other to make it work.

"Just like the prison—there's a big opportunity there—if it gets going we'll get some development. People have been waiting for that for years," he said. "We have some growth at the chemical plant (Rentech). Metform is another example. What we've been looking for is really starting to move."

Werner is a lifelong resident of East Dubuque (his grandfather was Marshall in East Dubuque in the mid-to late-'30s). He has served with several different organizations, including the zoning board of appeals, and he is a retired volunteer fireman.

Serving with the U.S. Army from 1966-68, he was stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas for six months and then Germany for 18 months. Retired from the Dubuque John Deere plant, he also ran Marty's Auto Repair for 25 years.

Werner and his wife, Sherrie, have been married for 41 years. They are the parents of two daughters, Laura Virtue and Kimberly Walker, and have three grandchildren, Zachary, Lydia and Kallie.

Co-op Connections® featured business

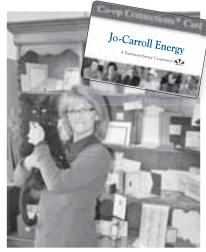
Ink & Paper, Stockton

An invitation can make someone's day. Those you love want to be included in the celebrations of your life. Birthdays, graduation, and your wedding are just a few events worthy of a custom designed invitation.

Amy Laskye is the owner and operator of Ink & Paper in downtown Stockton. What started out as used books and office supplies has developed into a convenience and gift store as well as custom invitation studio.

"My approach to invitations is different," stated Laskye. Instead of searching for hours through generic card catalogs, Laskye works with her customers to build the design he or she wants. In every step of the process, you can be involved; from the initial consultation to the day your guests receive their invitation.

Her method typically takes longer than other invitation services, but the results are more unique and the process is more fun, according to Laskye. Every invitation or announcement is printed in-house and hand assembled. Because so much of the process is hands-on, Laskye is able to control the quality and the cost.



It is often the assumption that small, local businesses are expensive. On the contrary, Laskye is able to work with each customer to stay within his or her budget while providing a quality and unique product. Invitations may be Laskye's niche but Ink & Paper stocks office supplies, printer ink and gifts for all ages. Do not travel miles away when these products are available here. Laskye also provides solutions for business including brochures, business cards, product labels and more. She has no minimum order requirement unlike

many of her competitors.

After living in fifteen different towns and giving up her career in microbiology, Laskye settled down in Stockton with her husband and son. Because she frequently moved it was impossible to give back to any of these communities. Now in Stockton, she wanted something challenging that would make an impact on the community.

Ink & Paper was the perfect combination of her passions for business, design and community. Laskye is the current Stockton Chamber of Commerce President and has served on the board for nine years, among her service to other local organizations.

Ink & Paper is located at 113 S. Main St., Stockton as well as on the web at www.inkandpaperinvitations. com, on twitter, facebook and pinterest. Call 815-947-2878 to schedule a free estimate or stop by the store. Because, where else are you going to get something like that?

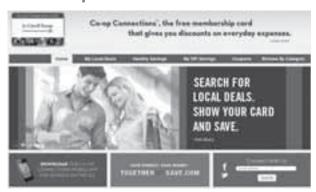
"Jo-Carroll Energy members exclusively receive 50% off Graphic Design on any print order over \$100 and 25% off any gift item with your Co-op Connections Card.

New and Improved Co-op Connections Website

www.connections.coop

Energy is proud to offer our members the advantage of saving money with the Co-op Connections Card. Every member has exclusive access to savings on prescriptions, dental, vision, and eye care, national retailers and services as well as locally owned and operated businesses. But do you ever wonder where exactly you can use your Co-op Connections Card?

At www.connections.coop you can search for savings by zip code, category or keyword. Use this tool to save money in your own backyard and when you travel. Create a new account, log in and add discounts to your "favorites". Healthy Savings, VIP Savings and access to hundreds of coupons are also exclusively available on the new website, simply because you are a member of Jo-Carroll Energy.



Visit www.connections.coop and begin saving today with you Co-op Connections Card. Don't have a card? Call 800-858-5522 to request yours by mail, or pick one up at either Jo-Carroll Energy office in Elizabeth or Savanna.

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Jo-Carroll Energy offers 2013 scholarships

500 scholarships to high school seniors in 2013. This is the eleventh year the cooperative has awarded scholarships to the sons and daughters of 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 school 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 scholarship 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 familiar with the student, must accompany the application.

The application deadline for the Jo-Carroll Energy scholarship is Jan. 31, 2013. Scholarship winners will be notified by May of 2013. Application forms are available from local high 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, or pfrancomb@jocarroll.com.

Eight 2013 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2013 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 to attend an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2013 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.

A new eighth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 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, Ill. Sons and
daughters of co-op
members; relatives of
co-op employees
or directors; individuals enrolled in the
Lincoln Land lineworker's school; and individuals
who have served or are serving
in the armed forces or National
Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Peggy Francomb, corporate communications manager at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218, or pfrancomb@jocarroll.com. All necessary paperwork is being sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com.

Nominations sought for board seats

Three seats on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors will be filled during the 2013 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 1, now represented by Martin Werner of East Dubuque; District 2, now represented by Joe Mattingley of Scales Mound; and District 4, now represented by Chris Stadel of Hanover.

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 later than Feb. 14, 2013.

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 duties.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2013 Annual Meeting Book, on the cooperative's website 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.

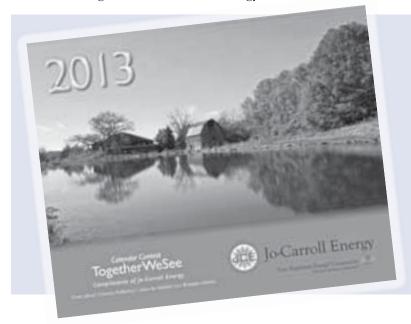
Congratulations to our 2013 photo contest winners

Contest! We received almost 80 entries in the TogetherWeSee

photo contest and are proud to feature the work of so many talented members in the 2013 Jo-Carroll Energy Calendar.

Copies of the calendar are available at both Elizabeth and Savanna offices.

Winners in the contest include:



- Lori Brininger, Galena
- Karen Lenstra, Galena
- Julie Staver, Galena
- Lee Roberts, Erie
- Susan Schultz, Galena
- Rachel O'Neill, Galena
- Marla Quinn, East Dubuque
- Sarah Bogue, Savanna
- Carolyn Miller, Mt. Carroll
- Donna Berlage, Galena
- Ellyne Obermiller, Fulton
- Amy Graham, Galena
- Casey Klein, East Dubuque

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