

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

JO-CARROLL

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Connie M. Shireman

JCWIFI.com

It is safe to say that electric cooperatives exist because of the desire of rural residents and businesses to have the same quality of life that those in the cities had.

We at Jo Carroll Energy are committed to providing services that will help to improve the quality of life that our members have.

We continually look to provide products and services, consistent with our mission statement. It's apparent

that our members once again have a need, as they did in the late 30s and early 40s, to have a service that would be of very high value to them.

Many members have asked if JCE is involved in providing high-speed Internet service. Members also asked the Jo Carroll Energy Board of Directors about high-speed Internet service at our annual meeting.

We have tested and researched high-speed Internet service for quite some time and most applications fell short of what we felt our members and communities deserve.

Just recently, a wireless solution (not dial-up or satellite) was proposed to our board of directors that the best design to serve our members and communities.

On November 23, 2004, the Jo-Carroll Energy board agreed to partner with Computer Dynamics in bringing high-speed Internet service to both Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties. This is a wireless solution and the plan is to build the service in both counties. Computer Dy-

namics will handle the operations and billing and Jo Carroll Energy will handle the marketing of the business.

We are proud to introduce
JCWIFI.com!
 Don Ramey



Jo-Carroll Energy President/CEO Connie Shireman (left) and Computer Dynamics President/CEO Jay Butson agree to a partnership for high-speed Internet services.



Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

During hours call
(815) 858-2207
or (800) 858-5522.

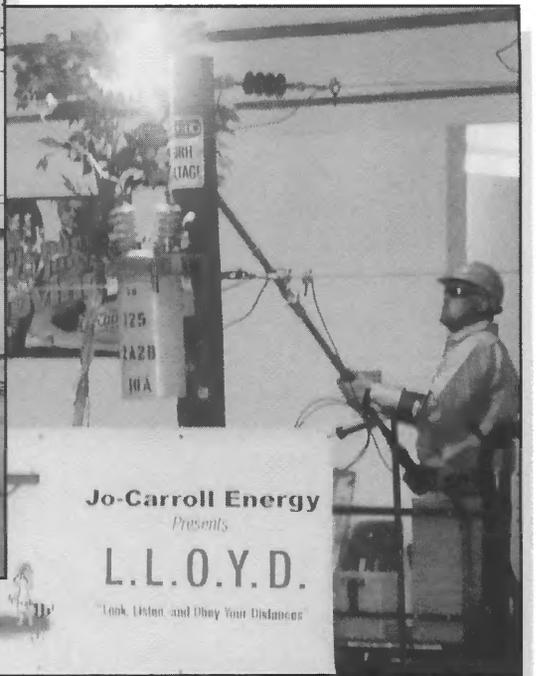
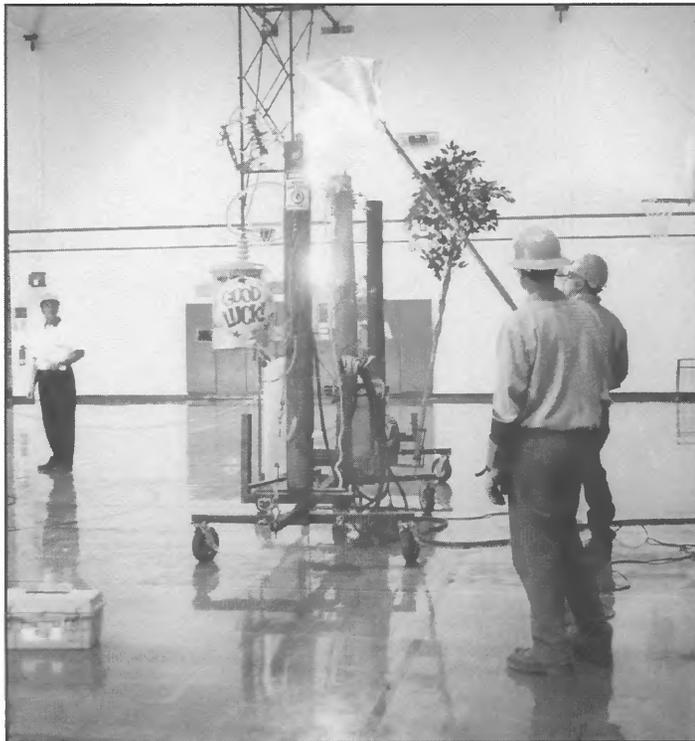
Hot Line Safety Demonstrations Presented to Area Schools

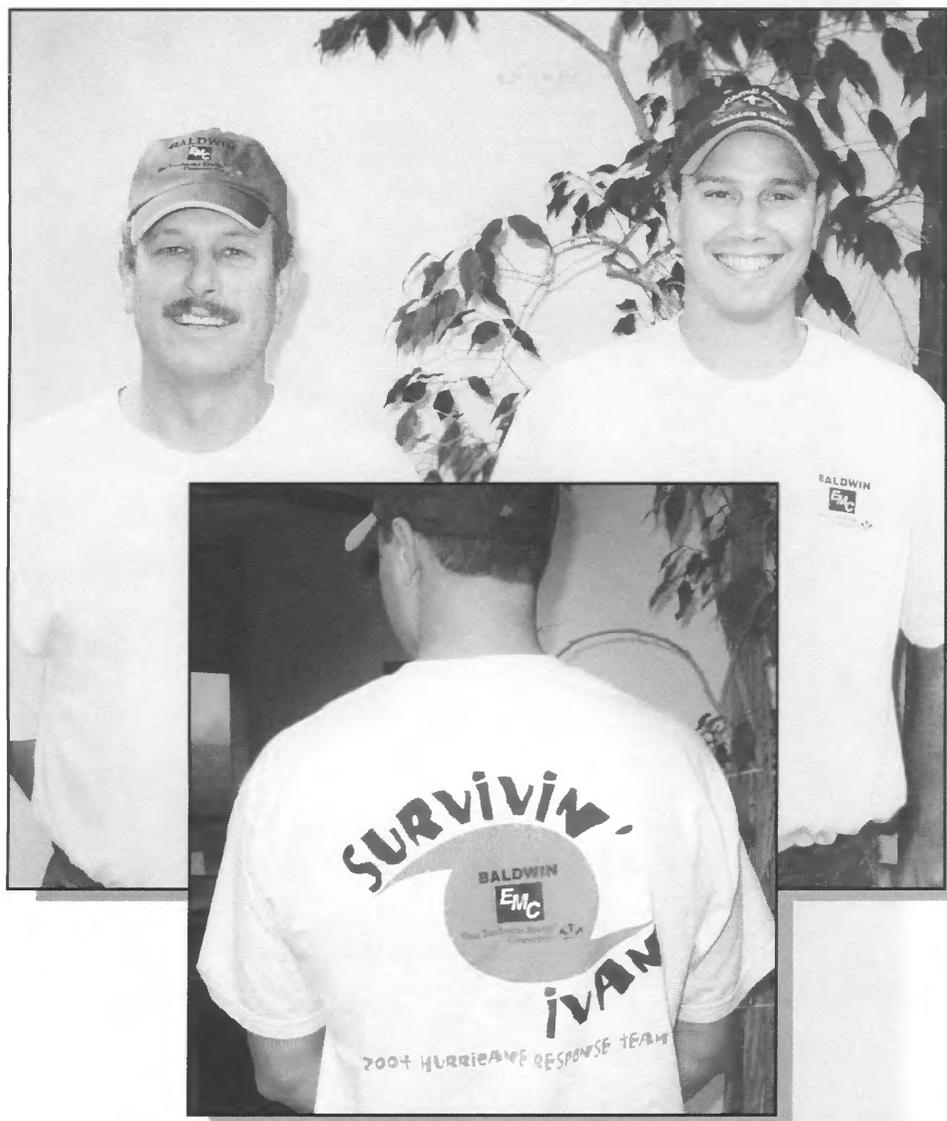
On November 4 and November 30, line workers Jeremy Werner and Rob Headlee presented Jo-Carroll Energy's hot line safety demonstration to Galena and Scales Mound Middle School students.

The device used in the safety demonstration is called L.L.O.Y.D., which stands for "Look, Listen

and Obey Your Distance." The demonstration is a dramatic way to promote safety to area schools, community organizations, and fire departments, and to warn against the extreme dangers of human contact with electric lines.

The Hot Line Demo, built by Jo-Carroll Energy line workers, is an exact replica of the Jo-Carroll Energy distribution system. For information about L.L.O.Y.D., contact Charles DeLoach at 1-800-858-5522.





Jo-Carroll Linemen Rick Tippett and Jeremy Werner receive gratitude from Baldwin EMC for being part of the Hurricane Ivan response team

We wish to thank Rick Tippett and Jeremy Werner for volunteering to aid in Hurricane Ivan relief efforts in Summerdale, Alabama, last September. Both linemen received a letter of gratitude and "Surviving Ivan" t-shirts from Baldwin EMC General Manager "Bucky" Jakins. "We truly appreciate the dedication your employees showed as they worked alongside us during the restoration process," Jakins said.

Tippett stated that he and Werner worked 17 hours days while in Alabama, and came

away with a pretty fair sunburn, too.

"It was a good feeling to be able to help in an area that was so devastated; it looked like a war zone," said Werner. "Rick and I heard many kind words for our efforts. We never know when we may face a similar situation."

We are fortunate to have line-workers at Jo Carroll Energy that are willing to go the extra mile and to make sacrifices when needed. We are very proud of all of them. Our Linemen are always there for our members 24/7, rain or shine, even during Hurricanes.

**When your
POWER
is out...
we're on the line!**

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity.

Then call Jo-Carroll Energy Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

**During office hours
(800) 858-5522
After office hours —
dial (800) 927-5254**

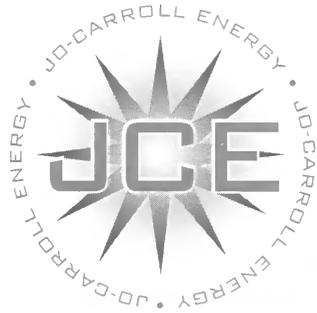


Jo Carroll Energy Lineman Don Altfillisch helps to decorate main-street in Elizabeth for Christmas.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll 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 story, contact Jo-Carroll and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.





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HI-LINES



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Connie M. Shireman

What do the Lights on Your Water Heater/Dual Fuel Receiver Tell You?

Question: What do the lights mean that are visible in my load receiver box?

Answer: In the simplest terms, there should always be one green light on from 5:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. This green light indicates that the receiver is receiving messages from the transmitter. If this green light is not on during the times indicated, then the cooperative should be notified because something is not working correctly. If other amber or red lights are on, it indicates that loads such as water heating, storage heating, or dual fuel are being interrupted. Although the lights are on, your load receiver may not have that type of load connected, thus the light may not indicate any load control for you.

Due to the different models of load receivers that have been installed over the years, it is difficult to describe what each light on your load receiver is controlling without knowing which receiver you have. The general rules are:

- Red light on (F-1) = Water heater interrupted
- Amber light on (F-2) = Dual fuel - electric heat interrupted
- Red light on (F-3) = Electric storage heating interrupted
- Amber light on (F-4) = Control alert
- Green light on (Prop) = Receiver is operating properly.
- Note: On certain receivers, the green light is intermittent at a 20-second interval.

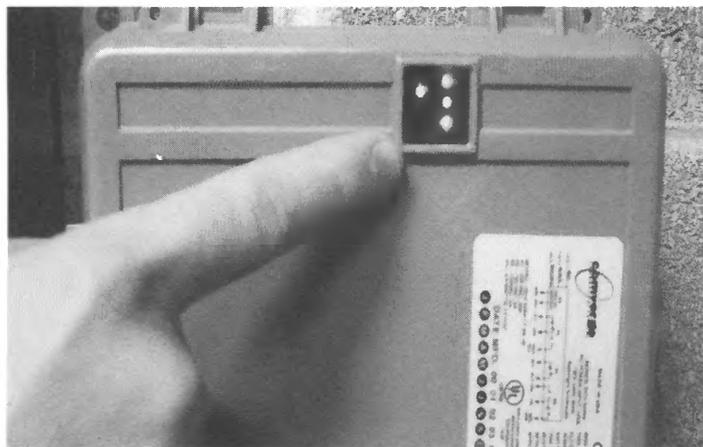
If you are without hot water, please check your circuit breaker, fuse, or reset button on your water heater before calling the cooperative. The control receivers are very accurate, consistent devices. Generally, problems associated with limited hot water are not related to the control.

We live in an area where the water is very hard on water heaters. In time, elements can become weak and may need replacing.

We sometimes receive calls from members who are inconvenienced by having certain appliances turned off during a dual fuel control event. The reason is that certain appliances have been wired into the dual fuel panel and are shut off at the same time that the electric heat is controlled. Please remember that we only want to control electric heat, not stoves, refrigerators, dryers, or other appliances. This would create a great inconvenience to those who participate in this program.

We want these programs to be of real value to Jo Carroll Energy members and with a little understanding, they will be.

However, please call us if you have questions or problems. With a little research, we can tell you what loads your receiver interrupts and possibly, which light(s) indicates control of your load(s).



Certain lights may be on but do not pertain to your controlled load.

Everything Lost in Fire at Jo-Carroll Energy Member's Home



Brad, Leah, and their two daughters, Taylor and Jade are shown with Jo-Carroll Energy board member John (Jack) Janssen

At approximately 8:53 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2004, several area fire departments responded to a fire at the home of Brad and Leah Grenoble.

Although there was no one was home at the time and there were no reported injuries, Brad, Leah, and their two daughters, Taylor and Jade, lost all of their personal belongings.

December 21, 2004



On behalf of Jo-Carroll Energy, board member John (Jack) Janssen presented the Grenoble family with gifts for the children and other items of need during this difficult time.

Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles that guide Jo-Carroll Energy's directors and employees.

We wish the Grenobles a safe and prosperous New Year.

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Congratulations!

Jo Carroll Energy member, Tom O'Connor will receive a \$100 credit on his electric bill. Mr. O'Connor's name was drawn from those who participated in the Illinois Statewide Survey. Thank you, Tom, for taking the time to help your electric cooperative understand more about you, the member.

These Transformers Aren't For Kids

By Walter Allread

A transformer? Isn't that the toy that changes from a spaceship to a robot superhero or something?

Well, yes and no. There are toys called Transformers but the transformers we're talking about aren't playthings. The transformers that electric cooperatives and other utilities use are even more powerful and remarkable, however, when you consider the job they do.

Distribution transformers reduce voltage for delivering electricity to consumers, normally 240/120 volts for most services. It is not usual to find one rated 1,000 kilovolt amperes (kva) or more serving a large user. A transformer for a new home is usually rated 10-15 kva (roughly 10 or 15 horsepower).

Transformers vary in size and style but the most common type of distribution transformer, the can-shaped steel tanks often seen near the cross-arms of a utility pole, contain thousands of feet of wire coiled around a special laminated steel core. The tank is filled with insulating oil.



The pole-mounted transformer (can) at left is easily recognized but the "pad-mounted" transformers above, called that because they are mounted on concrete pads, are found in many neighborhoods where co-op power is delivered through underground lines. Pad-mounted transformers are housed in large, green, box-shaped metal cabinets.

Teach your children never to play around these transformers, or any type of electrical equipment, but don't let that be the only lesson. The next time you're riding along the highway and see a transformer on a co-op pole, share what you've learned. Who knows, you may have a future co-op lineworker or engineer in the family!

Annual Meeting Reminder

The 66th annual meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy members is coming soon so please mark your calendars. This year's meeting will be held at the River Ridge School Gymnasium on Route 84 between Elizabeth and Hanover, Jo-Daviess County, Illinois, on Saturday, March 19, 2005.

The annual meeting is a great time to meet and interact with your directors and employees. Many exciting changes have taken place over the last year and many new changes face us in the future. We will discuss the past year, recap some of its features, and give you a look into what the future holds for Jo-Carroll Energy.

Please remember that this is your annual meeting and we sincerely want to meet with you and hear what you have to say about your electric cooperative.

There will also be attendance prizes awarded, a lunch, and childcare service.

Robert Klein, Jr.

Look for more annual meeting information in next month's issue.

Reader prize

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Wireless broadband Internet service

**New service
offered through
a partnership of
Jo-Carroll Energy
and Computer
Dynamics**



- Easy to use
- Faster uploads and downloads
- No need for a second phone line
- Up to five e-mail accounts per customer
- \$5 monthly discount with 1-year advance payment
- 10 percent discount for seniors 65 and older
- Monthly residential rate **\$39.95**
- Monthly commercial rate **\$69.95**
- One-time installation fee **\$99.95**

Bill Payment Methods

1. Automatic account withdrawal
2. Monthly automatic credit card charge
3. Annual billing

Jo-Carroll Energy and Computer Dynamics

Bringing high-speed Internet service to Jo-Daviess and Carroll counties.

Please note: This is line-of-site technology and not everyone will be able to receive service. Call for availability in your area.

866-620-3725

Jo-Carroll Energy

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

2005 Annual Meeting Program

11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.....	Registration and Meet your Directors
11:45 a.m.....	Early Bird Prize \$100 credit on an electric bill
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.....	Box lunch furnished by Karen's Kitchen
12:45 P.M.....	Business Session
Call to order.....	Russ Simpson, Chairman
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.....	Richard Reusch
Invocation.....	Pastor Kurt Hansen
	Derinda Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran Hanover
Introduction of Jo-Carroll Directors and Former Directors.....	Russ Simpson
Introduction of Special Guests and Employees.....	Connie M. Shireman
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	Leonard Ricke, Secretary
Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting.....	Russ Simpson
Report of Director Election.....	Credentials and Election Committee
Articles of Incorporation, Proposed Changes.....	John Cox, Attorney
Report of Officers:	
Treasurer.....	John Janssen
President/CEO Presentation.....	Connie M. Shireman
Acceptance of Officers Reports.....	Russ Simpson
Unfinished Business	
New Business	
Adjourn Business Meeting	
Awarding of Attendance Prizes.....	Karen Hirsch and Helen Kilgore
• 25 - Twenty Dollar Bills	
• 25 - \$30 Energy Credits on an Electric Bill	
• Grand Prize - The Stove by Dimplex	
• Children's Entertainment - "Anthony" (Magic and Comedies)	

Board of Directors Voting Process

Ballots for the Jo-Carroll board of director's election will be sent out soon. By returning your ballot you are participating in the democratic process of election. Each vote counts, so please remember to return your ballot immediately.

There are a few important procedures to remember when completing your ballot:

- The ballot must be filled out by the person whom the membership is listed under.
- The return envelope must be signed or the ballot is invalid.
- All ballots must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 18.

Strict anonymity is enforced when tallying the ballots. By signing the return envelope, your ballot is in no way associated with your account. Thank you for your participation and we hope to see you at the annual meeting on March 19.

Return Envelope
I hereby certify that I personally marked the enclosed ballot.

Voter
Sign Here _____
() Individual Member or Joint Member.
() Guardian or Legal Representative of:
() Chairman of:
() Designated Voting Representative of:

(Name of Organization, Ward, or Person Represented)

Certification
Must be signed by voter for the ballot to be counted

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or (800) 858-5522.

2005 Director Candidate Profiles

District 3 - Marcia M. Stanger

13A17 Rawhide Ct., Apple River, IL 61001
(815) 492-2225

"I would ask voters to elect me as director for District 3 as I wish to contribute to the system that keeps it all going. One of the major responsibilities of a director is that of communicator between the board and its members, especially those in said director's district," says Marcia.

Marcia and her husband, Bob, have lived at Apple Canyon Lake since 1992 and have four grown children. After High School graduation, she attended Marquette University and then worked as a secretary/administrative assistant for a few years before marrying in 1958.

Marcia's work experience and positions include commercial real estate/property manager in 1983-1999, Village of Fox River Grove Board of Directors (planning/zoning and finance), chair of the finance committee for two years, representative from the Village to NIPC (Northern Illinois Planning Commission).

Marcia was also elected to the position as Director of Apple Canyon Lake Property Owners Association, serving for six years. She also served as Chairman for the rules, regulation, publicity, nominating, and architectural control and welcoming committees. She was also elected Executive Vice-President of the board for a year.

"I would like to be a member of the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors as I have background experience that can be used as a director. I have the interest, and the time to serve. As a woman, I think I bring to the all-man board a female dimension. I would hope I could serve this board in the fine work it has done over the years," says Marcia.



District 3 - Stanley Cox

4693 N. Broadway Rd, Apple River, IL 61001
(815) 594-2465

Stan was born and raised in Jo-Daviess County. After graduating from Warren High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving a tour of duty in Korea.

Stan owns and operates a 400-acre farm in Jo-Daviess County. Until a year ago, he owned an 80-head, registered Holstein dairy herd, always enjoying the challenge of improving production through education and genetics. The



Cox family received the Jo-Daviess County Outstanding Dairy Farm Award in 1993 and the Environmental Award from the Jo-Daviess SWCD in 1985.

Stan has served on the Jo-Daviess County Board, the C.U.D. #205 Warren School Board, numerous agricultural boards, and a previous term on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors.

Stan and his wife, Sharon, are the parents of three grown children, and have nine grandchildren. They are active members of Apple River United Methodist Church, where Stan is a trustee, and Sharon just finished a seven-year term as church treasurer.

Stan enjoys hunting and fishing with his grandchildren. He would like to serve on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors as a representative of District #3, with a commitment to upholding the JCE mission statement.

District 6 - Tom Lundy

17861N. Airhart Road, Savanna, IL 61074
(815) 273-3534

Tom Lundy and his wife, Priscilla, operate a grain and beef cattle farm in rural Savanna Illinois. They are the parents of four grown children and nine grandchildren.

Tom graduated from Savanna High School in 1955. After high school, he attended Cornell College located in Mount Vernon, Iowa where he received a degree in chemistry. Following college graduation, Tom served in the Marine Corp and was stationed just 36 miles from Washington D.C. at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia.

Tom enjoys fishing and has a real passion for the farm, which keeps both him and Priscilla active and busy.

Tom recalls when electricity came to the rural Savanna area. He was about seven years old in 1944 when rural electrification took place in his area. Tom stated, "Changes started very small, but there was quite a dramatic change for pumping water and lighting the home. Before electricity came, the lighting in the home was carbide type lamps and the pumping was done by hand." Tom continued, "We have always loved ice cream and at that time our ice cream was all homemade. Well, the old kerosene refrigerator was a very important appliance in helping us keep that ice cream cold."

Tom has served on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board for 13 years in district 6. Mr. Lundy was elected to the Jo-Carroll Energy Board, March 10, 1990.



District 6 - L. Erik Torrison

10854 Zion Road, Savanna, IL 61074
(815) 273-2184

L. Erik Torrison and his wife, Sue Ann, live in Savanna, Illinois and have been Jo-Carroll Energy Members since 1978. Erik has farmed corn, oats, alfalfa hay, and raised cattle and hogs since 1978.

He also taught in the Savanna School District for 20 years and served as coach and activities advisor. He was also a Professional Executive in the Ill. and Wisc. Divisions of the Boy Scouts of America for 20 years.

Erik has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Lakeland College, and a bachelor's of science degree from National Training School of Highland Community College.

He has served as a director for the Carroll County Soil & Water Conservation District and as a Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council Member from 1999 to present.

He has also been a Delegate from Region one for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Congress IV & V from 1999 to present.

Since 2003, Erik as served as President of the DOA - Northwest Illinois Land Use Council #1, of which he has belonged since 1999.

He is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Savanna and on the Stewardship Committee, a member of United Methodist Men, and serves as Scouting Coordinator.

Erik loves family activities. He and his wife have four children and eight grandchildren.

Erik is very interested and involved in conservation restoration projects, wildlife habitat, wind energy, church, travel, economic development, and community/professional activities.



District 9 - John "Jack" Janssen

3957 Morrison Road, Chadwick, IL 61014
(815) 684-5343

Jack and his wife, Joyce, are life-long residents of the Chadwick area and became members of Jo-Carroll Energy in 1956 when they first began farming.

Jack and Joyce have four grown children, and five grandchildren. Jack is active in Fairhaven United Methodist Church, a member of the Chadwick Masonic Lodge and an active member of the Lions Club.

Jack's hobbies include, fishing and hunting as much



as he can between his civic duties and his work on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board. He also is a member of the Chadwick Senior Citizens.

Jack has served on the Jo-Carroll Board since being elected in 1979. He follows his father, a long time Jo-Carroll director and his brother, who served on the board a short time before moving from the service area.

Jack takes his responsibility as Treasurer very seriously and believes in the cooperative way of doing business. "I have been doing business with cooperatives for years", Jack said, "For the rural areas at least, they are the best way for people to work together for the good of all involved."

Jack said, "If re-elected, I plan to work diligently for the benefit of the cooperative members."

District 9 - Larry Alexander

268 Demmon Road, Chadwick, IL 61014
(815) 684-5611

Larry, his wife, Linda, and their two sons live in Chadwick, Illinois. The family operates a grain and livestock farm there and have for 30 years.

Larry graduated from Chadwick High School in 1974. He is involved in several area organizations including United Methodist Church Fair Haven, Carroll County Farm Bureau, The Illinois Hereford Association, and The Carroll County Foundation Board.

Larry and his two sons enjoy dirt track racing and raising Hereford Cattle.

Past board, experience includes Director of the Carroll County Farm Bureau for 10 years and the Treasurer for six years. He is also currently the Director and Treasurer of the Carroll County Foundation Board.

Larry states, "As a director for Jo-Carroll Energy, I want to ensure the supply of low-cost energy and service to our consumer/members. Organization, guidance and leadership are key components to a viable cooperative."

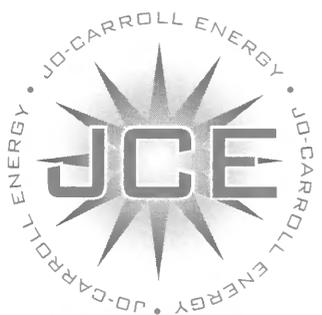


Ballots are mailed to Members in Districts 3, 6, and 9

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Connie M. Shireman

5th Cooperative Principle: Education, Training, and Information

Our directors are held to very high standards of integrity, leadership, community interest, judgment, and reasoning. They also must have a sincere desire to learn about, fully understand, and support the seven cooperative principals, one of which is education, training, and information. **Fenny Kumborg**

At Jo-Carroll Energy, as at all Illinois electric cooperatives, our directors have a responsibility in directing the affairs of the cooperative. This cannot be done effectively unless directors have the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill those responsibilities.

Today more than ever, our directors must not only understand

their roles and responsibilities to the co-op and its members, but also have a strong desire to improve their cooperative knowledge and skills. In order to be innovative, diversified, and to be leaders in the growth of our communities like our mission statement says, your directors must have a strong focus on continuing education.

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we are committed to the education of the directors who serve you.

Recently, your directors received computer training to enable them to communicate more effectively with members. The training was provided by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.



Your Jo-Carroll Energy directors attend an on-site computer workshop, presented by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Engineering Technician Ambyr Case.



WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Chris and Tess Ballard of Roselle
David and Emily Bloom of East Dubuque
Reza and Arlene Ehtessabian of Dubuque, IA

Below is a brief introduction of a family who built a new home on our lines.



New members Mike and Cindy Hefel found a great place to raise a family in Galena.

Jo-Carroll Energy would like to welcome Mike, Cindy, and their son, Ethan, to the cooperative.

Mike is a Business Manager at Anderson Weber in Dubuque, Iowa and Cindy is a Computer Technician at Lands End in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Ethan is eight months old.

The Hefel family moved into their new home in January 2005.



Their home was outfitted with an energy-efficient geothermal heating and cooling system from Winters Plumbing & Heating in Scales Mound. The system will use the earth's energy to help heat and cool the home, providing hot water, all at a fraction of the cost of other heating systems.

Mike, Cindy, and Ethan will enjoy low energy bills for years because of their geothermal system. They also received a rebate from the co-op for installing the system.

We would also like to introduce ourselves to our new members! We encourage all Jo-Carroll Energy members to contact us to learn more about your cooperative and the programs and services we provide. Call (800) 858-5522 ext. 210.

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Anniversary

Congratulations to Jo-Carroll Energy Lineworker Jim Schaible. February 18, 2005, marked 25 years with the co-op. Please join us in congratulating Jim for his 25 years of dedicated service to the co-op.

Jim, left, receives an award for his service from Operations Superintendent Bill Tuori.



Some Things Never Change

Ken and Austin Parrott have been Jo-Carroll Energy members for a long time. In fact, they were there when rural electrification came to Jo-Daviess County.

As young men, the two worked on the family farm owned since 1920 by their parents, Nolah and Stella Parrott.

As World War II hit the nation, Ken and Austin both enlisted in the service to serve their country. In 1942, Ken joined the Air Force, and Austin joined the Navy in 1944.

This left Nolah and Stella working very long hours to keep up the cattle farm while their two boys served their country. But their load was soon lightened when electricity came to the farm, though they still missed their sons and remained short-handed.

An electric chick brooder, lights, and even a radio eased their struggles.

Ken and Austin both returned from WWII and today run the farm their parents struggled to maintain. And though times might be easier now, both men remember how the farm operated before electricity.

They both recall the kerosene lamps, pumping water by hand, and even plowing with horses before their first tractor in 1936.

"I don't remember what we did at night before electricity; we probably just went to bed" says Austin.

After electricity, nightly rituals changed a little. "Radio and playing cards were our forms of entertainment. We would all huddle around the radio to listen to *The Shadow*," Ken says.

Ken says, "We definitely use a lot more electricity today than we did back then."

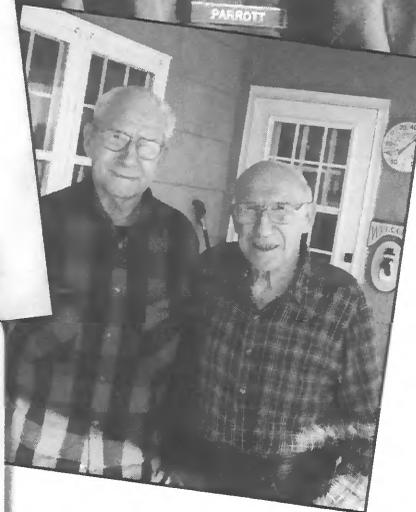
Austin agrees, "We probably use as much in one month today as we did all year then."



Above: Ken Parrott still has his Air Force uniform from World War II.



Ken Parrott says, "We definitely use a lot more electricity today than we did back then."



Far Left: Ken (left) and Austin in the 1940s. **Left:** Austin (left) and Ken today.

Both men also recall how Floyd Ruble, Jo-Carroll's manager at the time, waded knee deep in the snow to investigate electrical

interference that was interrupting radio service. They said it was found to be a loose hot line clamp and the problem was soon resolved.

Ken and Austin believe that the same commitment to service exists at Jo-Carroll Energy today. And both men agree that the reliability and commitment to service continues to improve year after year.

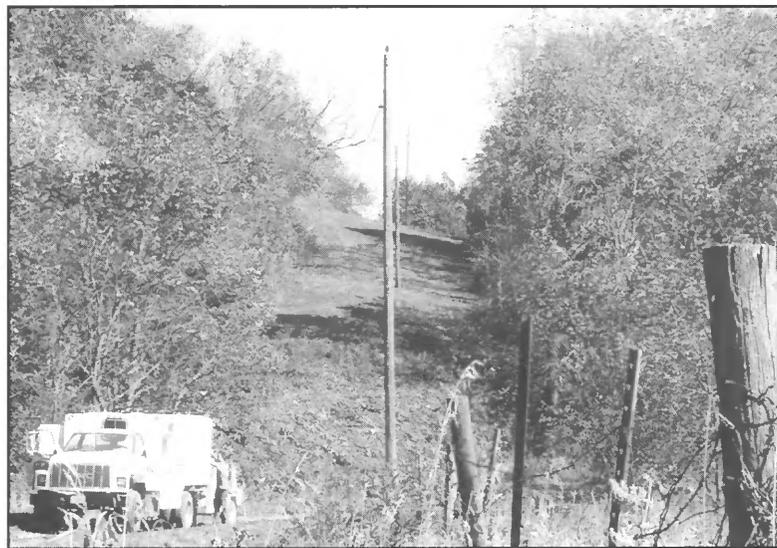
Though times may have changed, Jo-Carroll's commitment to members has not.

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Right-Of-Way Clearing Improves Reliability

Another busy year of tree trimming and right-of-way work is scheduled for Jo-Carroll Energy in 2005. This work is a very important part of our overall maintenance program. Dependable electric service is always our goal. When trees come into contact with power lines, that contact usually causes a power outage, which detracts from that goal.



The electric energy used by our members travels across nearly 1,200 miles of high-voltage power lines in Jo-Daviess and Carroll Counties, more than 850 of which are overhead power lines. These lines are not insulated and must be isolated from any contact with the ground. Trees can provide a path for electric current to travel to the ground, and when contact between a tree and line occurs, an unsafe over-current situation occurs.

JCE has many protective devices, similar to circuit breakers or fuses in the home, installed at strategic points

along the line. If a line contacts a tree, these devices operate, or open, and break the circuit to stop the unsafe over-current situation.

Our line workers call the over-current protective device opening an "operation;" our members know it as an "outage." Sometimes the devices have an automatic closing mechanism installed; they open, and then automatically "re-close," restoring the power. Our members call these "blinks." That is what has happened when you come home to blinking digital clocks.

Whatever terminology is used, neither our line workers nor our membership likes outages and blinks.

A systematic right-of-way clearing program is the best answer. This work reduces blinking lights and outages. In addition, this work will help improve access to the right-of-way. If there is damage to wires or poles, our crews can complete repair work faster.

Emergency trimming and tree work is done by our local line crews, but we use a professional tree contractor, Elite Tree Company, for the majority of our annual right-of-way work. Elite Tree utilizes specialized equipment and trained professionals for right-of-way clearing.

Right-of-way clearing is scheduled this spring primarily in Vinegar Hill, Council Hill, Rawlins, Guilford, and Thompson Townships. This work will cover the circuits served out of the Scales Mound Substation. However, if you have trees contacting a power line near your location, please call Jo-Carroll Energy at (800) 858-5522 to report it.

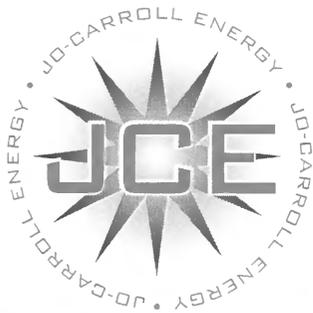
**When your power is out...
we're on the line!**

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity.

Then call Jo-Carroll Energy Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

During office hours (800) 858-5522 After office hours — dial (800) 927-5254





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JO-CARROLL

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



Opening Doors To New Opportunities

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Connie M. Shireman

A day that looked a lot more like winter than just one day before spring greeted JCE Members who attended the 66th Annual Meeting on March 19. The structure of the meeting was somewhat different this year, based on the survey that was offered in 2004. We wanted to

have more one-on-one interaction with the members. We created an atmosphere where members could register, have refreshments, and meet the directors and employees in the commons area. This concept seemed to work well. *Michael Teplan*



Members of Jo-Carroll Energy elected board members at this year's 66th annual meeting, held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, at the River Ridge School. From left are re-elected director Thomas Lundy of Savanna, President/CEO Connie Shireman, newly elected director Marcia Stanger of Apple River, and re-elected director John "Jack" Janssen of Chadwick.

The theme this year was "Opening Doors To New Opportunities."

We discussed how your Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors have been diligently investigating activities and areas of interest to expand the products and services of the co-operative to its members and other possible consumers. The purpose of these endeavors is to maintain low cost, efficient delivery of en-

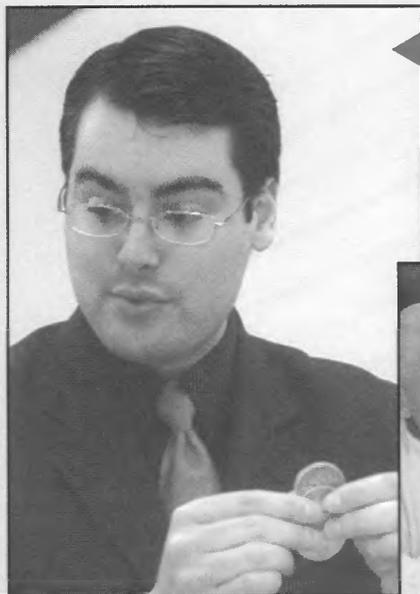
ergy throughout the co-op while improving the quality of life to its members. Members voted to accept the board proposed changes to the articles of incorporation that will reflect these endeavors.

We updated members about the co-op's new Geographical

■ continued on 16b

■ continued from 16a

Information System (GIS). The co-op is involved in phase two of the installation of the system. All of the co-op's trucks have laptop computers and, at the end of the month, every lineman will be able to access an up-to-date sophisticated map-



"A Penny For Your Thoughts?"
Magician Anthony entertained families prior to the meeting.



Jo-Carroll Director Bernie Bosch (right) visits with a member.



Kids enjoyed some games while their parents attended the annual meeting.

We addressed questions asked about the possible acquisition of a portion of Alliant Energy's territory.

Members re-elected board members Tom Lundy of Savanna and John "Jack" Janssen of Chadwick. Members elected Marcia Stanger of Apple River to replace Stanley Cox.

While continuing to serve our members, the co-op has also renewed its dedication to the children of the community through Hot Line safety demonstrations,

Discovery Channel School's Get Charged! Curriculum kits for area schools, Child I.D. kits, 4-H electricity programs, Youth Wellness conferences, two \$500 college scholarships, and participation in the national electric cooperative's Youth-to-Washington tour by sponsoring a local student on a trip to

Washington DC.

We have opened doors to many "value added" services such as whole-house surge protection, Envirowatch home monitoring, First Call medical monitoring, long distance phone service, JCWiFi high-speed wireless Internet, renewable energy choices, automatic bill payment, electric fireplaces, electric grills and smoker products.

Your Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 600 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

ping system that can assist in locating an outage.

The co-op has also opened the door to another opportunity for its members through its new JCWiFi program, which will allow many rural members a chance to experience high-speed broadband services. The service is currently available in parts of Mount Carroll, Elizabeth, and the Apple Canyon Lake areas. In April, the service will expand to other areas served by the cooperative.

Office hours

**7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday**

**During hours call
(815) 858-2207
or (800) 858-5522.**

WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Sandra Parker of Woodridge
Robert and Suzanne Masulis of Winfield
John Yorkman of Galena



Below is a brief introduction of a new local business in Hanover.

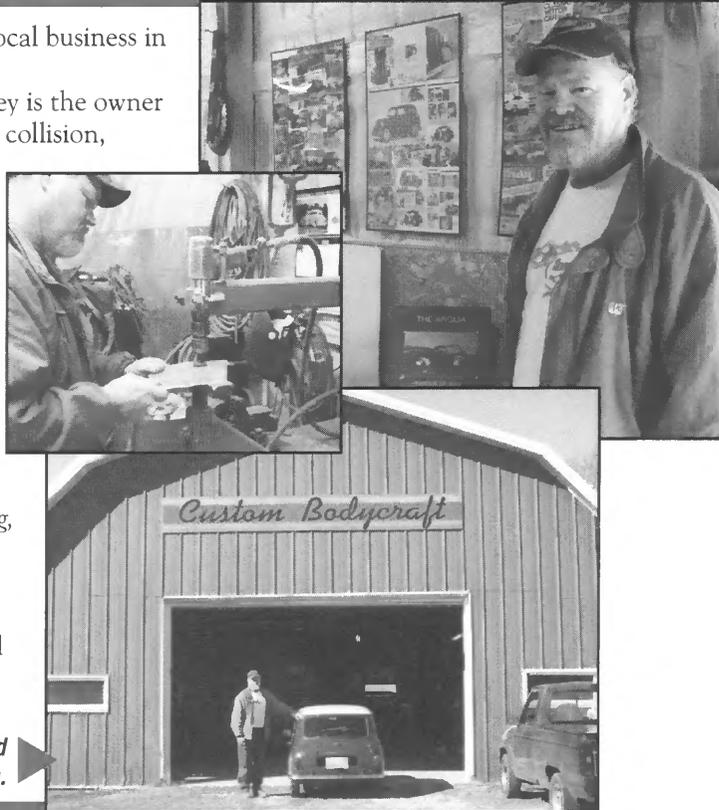
New cooperative member Tim Gaffney is the owner of the newly opened Custom Bodycraft, a collision, restoration, and street rod operation in Hanover, Ill. Tim got his start in bodywork during high school in Long Beach, California. Just after he moved to Galena in 1994, a very bad hailstorm hit that created plenty of work for him and others in the restoration business.

Tim says his real passion is the restoration and metal shaping of street rods. Some of his work has been featured in nationally known publications such as *Street Rodding*, *Popular Hot Rodding*, *Hot Rod* magazine, and a few others.

Tim currently works at Mike Finnin Ford as a body technician.

We welcome Tim, his wife Laura, and daughters Beth, Michelle, and Lauren as new members of Jo-Carroll Energy.

The Custom Bodycraft sign was created by Tim's daughter, Beth.



We would also like to introduce ourselves to our new members!
We encourage all Jo-Carroll Energy members to contact us to learn more about your cooperative and the programs and services we provide.
Call (800) 858-5522 ext. 210.

JCWIFI.com

Now available for Elizabeth residents and businesses.
Always on, Always Fast, Wireless Broadband Internet Service
Jo Carroll Energy through a Partnership with Computer Dynamics

Is Now Offering, Super Fast, Affordable, High-Speed Internet

- Monthly Residential rate \$39.95
- Monthly Commercial rate \$69.95
- One Time installation fee \$99.95
- \$5.00 per month discount for one year paid in advance
- 10% discount for seniors age 65 & over
- Always on service
- Access live music, video & TV
- No Phone Line Needed

- No Busy signals
 - Firewall for Protection
 - Up to Five Residential Email Accounts
- ### Easy Bill Payment Methods
- Automatic account withdrawal
 - Monthly automatic credit card charge
 - Annual Billing
- *Wireless depends on a line-of-site path between the customer antenna and the Internet Services antenna in each area, not everyone can receive service

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll 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 story, contact Jo-Carroll and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication

Illinois Cooperative Balloon Associates Receive Touchstone Energy's® Top Award

Touchstone Energy's highest honor was awarded to 10 Illinois co-ops that have been instrumental in the success of the Touchstone Energy brand. The Cooperative Balloon Associates



Pilot Cheri White (right) and 10 innovative Illinois Touchstone Energy co-ops make up CBA. Representatives of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Norris Electric Cooperative, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, McDonough Power Cooperative, Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy, and Soyland Power Cooperative and Continental Cooperative Services joined White in accepting the award.

(CBA), a consortium of Illinois-based cooperatives that own and operate the Touchstone Energy hot- and cold-air balloons, were presented the 2005 Touchstone Energy Distinguished Service Award in San Diego, Calif.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the development, growth and success of the Touchstone Energy brand.

"The leaders and founders of CBA, and General Manager Cheri White have been tireless advocates for the Touch-

stone Energy program since the first balloon took flight five years ago," said Roger Clark, CEO of Boone Electric Cooperative in Columbia, Mo., and chair of the Touchstone Energy board of directors. "Their professional image and outstanding work in promoting the brand and its values make Touchstone Energy cooperatives across the country proud to feature the hot-air balloon at their events, in their publications, and on apparel and billboards. This, coupled with the balloon's media coverage, has generated more than 68.5 million impressions for the Touchstone Energy brand since 1999," added Clark, who presented the awards.

More than 200 Touchstone Energy co-ops in 23 states have used the balloon, reaching 11.5 million people. And CBA, like all Touchstone Energy co-ops, has given back to the community. Donations from CBA of nearly \$8,000 have been made to everything from the American Cancer Society to the Special Olympics Scholarship Fund. For more information, go to www.cbaballoon.com.

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 600 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 44 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 17 million consumers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities. For more information, go to www.touchstoneenergy.coop.

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Monday, May 30 to observe Memorial Day.

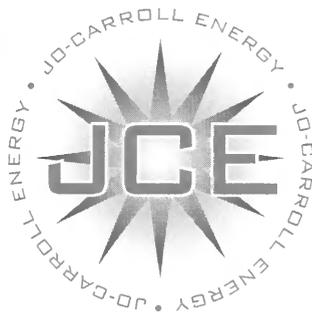
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The Heart of a Lineworker

September 11, 2001, taught us a lot about the hearts of emergency response workers. We see them everyday in our communities – our firefighters, EMTs, police officers, Red Cross workers, local veterans, soldiers, and many more.

Recently we had a good look at the hearts and character of Jo-Carroll Energy Linemen. On April 14, 2005, the home of Jo-Carroll Energy members Gene and Irene Clark was hit by a devastating fire where everything

was lost. Jo-Carroll Energy line workers Bill Allen, Rob Hedlee, and Jeremy Werner were the first to respond to the scene.

The three were on their way to a job site when they noticed plumes of smoke from the main road. Being the community guardians that they are, they drove to the scene to find the home already half consumed by the fire and immediately called emergency services (fire and rescue). They noticed that the fuse was blown at the transformer and quickly removed the meter.

The home site gave every impression that someone may have been home. At the scene, as the three line workers gazed into the rubble, Bill Allen stated, "If we could only have been here 15 minutes earlier, we could have made a difference."

The unsettling feeling was that

■ *continued on 16b*



Jo Carroll Energy line workers Bill Allen, Rob Hedlee, and Jeremy Werner hoping for good news.

Gene and Irene Clark gaze at what used to be home.



people were still in the house and did not make it out. The family car was unlocked and in the driveway just where you would expect it to be if someone were home. Phone calls to Gene and Irene Clarks cell phone failed.

Firefighters, policemen, Red Cross workers, as well as the Jo-Carroll Energy Linemen had an unsettling feeling about the worst-case scenario.

The great news is that later in the afternoon, contact was made with Gene and Irene and they were safe. The home burned to the ground and all of their possessions were lost along with the family's dog. The good news about the Clarks being located, safe and sound, did not get to the line workers until the next day. Bill Allen said, "I lay awake that night, thinking about how it might have been different if we were able to get there sooner. I felt so bad thinking about the family dog and kept hoping that no one was home at the time."

A few days after the fire Gene Clark said how thankful he and his wife Irene were to be safe. Gene said, "We received so much support from everyone involved. The people of Mt Carroll have gone out of their way to help us. We appreciate the concern

and care shown by the fire departments, the Sheriff department, the community, and Jo-Carroll Energy. I would also like to say that our realtor, Tony Mcombe, has helped us find lodging and has truly been there for us." He went on to say, "Everything was lost, even Irene's wedding ring and her mother's wedding ring. I would suggest that people take pictures of everything in case this ever happens to them. I would also suggest a good quality fire safe."

The employees of Jo-Carroll Energy would like to express our thankfulness that the Clarks are safe. We also feel very bad about all that they lost in the fire. **Michael Gedmin**

In the cooperative world, we often tell and write about how line workers serve their communities and do so much more than the daily functions of their jobs. Not all of the articles and stories written can accurately portray what only a few are able to see at the site of an emergency. Please do not think for a minute that these heroes only exist in movies, or in big cities. On the contrary, they are all around us. Take a closer look and you will see the real hearts of our community heroes.

Jo Carroll Energy Scholarship Winners

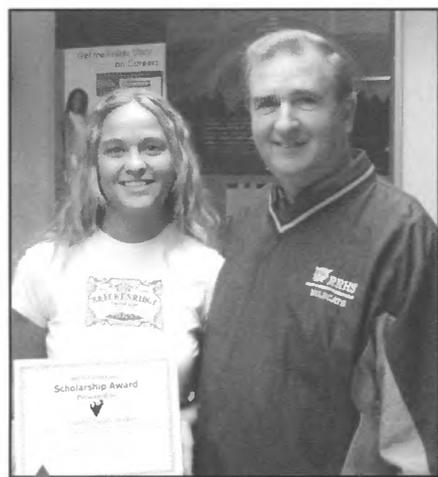
The JCE \$500 scholarship is awarded to two outstanding high school students (one in Jo-Daviess and one in Carroll county) planning to pursue higher education. The

winners have demonstrated superior scholastic performance, school and community involvement, and knowledge of electric cooperatives. Congratulations!

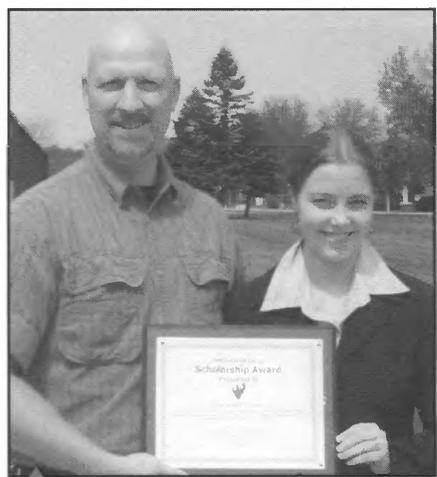
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Daisha Nicole Boehm of River Ridge High School in Jo Daviess County receives a \$500 JCE Scholarship. She is shown with Guidance Counselor Ray Kumor.



Margaret Haas of Savanna High School in Carroll County receives a \$500 JCE Scholarship. She is shown with Guidance Counselor Dave Baisden.

WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Brett J. Lawson
John Chesmore & family
Richard & Laurie Mattas



Below is a brief introduction of a family who learned that they didn't have to leave technology behind when they moved to the country.

Living Rural and Feeling Good

Chuck and Pat Wemstrom permanently moved to rural Mt Carroll from Skokie just a short time ago. Chuck says, "When we came here from the city we thought about the technology that we would have to sacrifice. I thought that rural services and technology would be lost. I have actually found it to be just the opposite. Quality service and modern technology is very good here."

Chuck and Pat are both retired English teachers from Skokie and volunteers with the Jo Daviess County Natural Area Guardians. Patricia helps with creating articles for the group.

The Wemstrom's like to keep in close touch with their four children, grandchildren, and other relatives who live in Chicago and other states. They have found that JCWIFI high-speed Internet service has been just what the doctor ordered to enable them to feel close.

Patricia says, "When relatives come to visit they like to be able to check e-mail and use the Internet as they are accustomed to in the bigger cities."

Before JCWIFI service became available, Patricia says, "It was a real inconvenience because all we could



get was dial-up Internet service and it just was not fast enough. We can now see pictures of our grandchildren where as before it was almost impossible."

Chuck said he likes to listen to classical music on the computer and enjoys reading newspapers on-line. He said he does a lot more reading on the Internet now because it is almost as fast as turning a page.

Chuck and Pat say that they are very pleased with the speed, service, and reliability of JCWIFI.

Chuck states, "When we moved to the country we thought that we would be isolated, because of JCWIFI we feel in touch with the whole world".

Please join us in welcoming Chuck and Pat Wemstrom to the rural cooperative life. See page 9 for more information about JCWIFI.

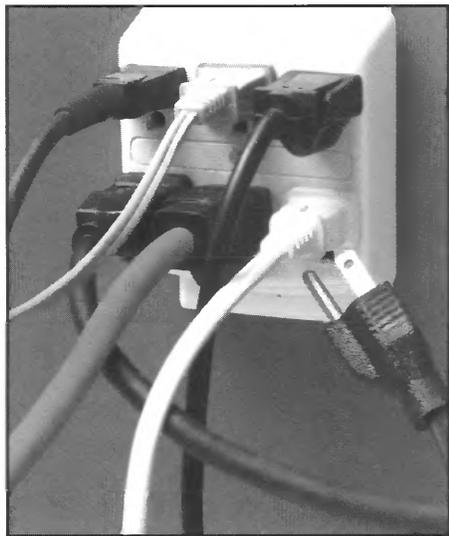
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**We would also like to introduce ourselves to our new members!
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about your cooperative and the programs and services we provide.
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Eliminate Top Safety Threats to Prevent Electrical Injuries

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) wants to remind consumers that taking steps to eliminate the top electrical safety threats in and around the home may prevent numerous injuries and deaths that needlessly occur each year.



According to data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), top electrical safety hazards include electrical fires caused by aging wiring and misuse of surge suppressors, and electrocutions from wiring systems and large appliances.

CPSC research indicates that each year we can expect more than 40,000 electrical fires, which result in hundreds of injuries and deaths. In addition, electrocutions associated with wiring and consumer products cost hundreds of lives annually.

“Despite the fact that many of these electrical hazards can be eliminated, we often fail to take steps necessary to protect ourselves from harm,” Michael G. Clendenin, executive director of ESFI noted. The following electrical safety tips may help avoid tragic and costly injuries:

- Make certain that all appliances and equipment are approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or ETL-SEMKO (ETL).
- Use appliances and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace damaged electrical equipment or have it repaired at an authorized

repair center. Replace frayed cords, broken plugs, or cracks that could cause hazards; cut and throw out damaged cords.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection when working where water is near electricity, in areas such your kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, or outdoors, to protect against electric shock.

- When using a generator, plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is free of cuts and tears and has a 3-prong plug. Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a dangerous practice known as back feeding. If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch in accordance with local electrical codes.

- Be alert for hazards of old wiring. Flickering or dimming lights can be signs of electrical wiring problems. Have wiring in homes 40 years old or more, or those more than 10 years old, that have had major renovations, inspected by a licensed electrical inspector.

- Add protection by installing a new electrical safety device—an arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI)—to detect and stop electrical arcs that can cause fires. Arcs are not detected by most breakers and fuses.

- Make sure power strips and surge suppressors are designed to handle the loads for their intended use. Avoid overloading circuits by plugging too many items into the same outlet.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

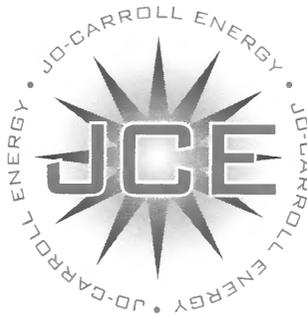
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Install Compact Fluorescent Lights and Save

Lighting accounts for almost one-fifth of all the electricity consumed in the United States. Common incandescent bulbs are very inefficient and waste 90 percent of their energy producing heat



instead of light. This waste heat contributes to your cooling bill in the summer.

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are one solution. They use one-quarter to one-third the electricity of common incandescent bulbs, and screw into standard light sockets. CFLs can save 60 percent or more on lighting costs. They're available in a wide range of light output and in a pleasing range of colors.

A CFL will cost about 10 times the price of an incandescent bulb, but it will last about 10 times longer. This makes their long-term cost about the same. The savings on your electric bill will begin immediately.

Start by installing CFLs in the rooms you use the most, like the kitchen, bathroom, and living room.

Choose CFLs with a much lower wattage than the incandescent bulbs they replace. For example, replace 100-watt incandescents with 26–30-watt CFLs to get the same light output, replace 75-watt incandescents with 20–23-watt CFLs, and replace 60-watt incandescents with 15–20-watt CFLs. Using the higher wattage CFLs ensures that you won't get complaints about loss of light.

Standard CFLs are slightly larger than incandescent light bulbs and may not fit in all fixtures. The smallest CFLs, called subcompact fluorescent, may work in these cases. Check your fixtures before purchasing CFLs.

If you're building a home, or plan to replace existing built-in fixtures, look for fixtures that are designed especially for CFLs. Recessed CFL fixtures—those that fit into the ceiling—are an especially good replacement for the recessed incandescent fixtures that allow large amounts of air to leak into the home.

One of the best sources of information about compact fluorescent lights is the Web site www.energystar.gov. They have good information about the sizing and potential savings from CFLs, as well as an online store.

Save 60 percent or more on lighting costs.

Adam Monahan

Upgrading Existing Fluorescent Fixtures

Fluorescent lights are one of the best energy-saving measures you can install in your home. Incandescent light bulbs produce only about 20 lumens of light per watt of electricity, while fluorescent lights produce 40-100 lumens per watt. In addition, if you have older tube-style fluorescent lights, you may be able to save additional energy by upgrading them to newer technology.

You can save up to 50 percent of your lighting cost

The most common fluorescent tube lamps are one-and-a-half inches in diameter. These T-12 lamps (the 12 stands for twelve-eighths of an inch in diameter) produce 45-55 lumens of light for each watt of electricity they consume. The new T-8 lamps (that's eight-eighths, or one-inch) are more efficient, producing up to 83 lumens per watt. So you can save up to 50 percent of your lighting cost by installing modern high-efficiency electronic ballasts in your older T-12

fixtures to accommodate T-8 bulbs. The most efficient T-8 system is called Super T-8 and delivers up to 97 lumens per watt.

T-8 lamps fit in the same lamp holder as T-12 bulbs, but you'll need a new electronic ballast to replace the older iron ballasts, which aren't compatible with T-8 bulbs. Ballasts are the black box inside the fixture that starts the lamp and keeps it running. The old iron ballasts create flicker in fluorescent fixtures that many people notice. Modern electronic ballasts prevent flicker and provide more efficient fluorescent lighting.

Hire an electrician to change the ballast, unless you're quite familiar with electrical wiring. Or just purchase new energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures to replace the old ones. Make sure that you are buying bulbs and ballasts that are compatible with one another. When you buy the new tubes, you'll also get to choose from among a range of color output: warm white, cool white, or full spectrum. *Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management (www.srmi.biz).*



Committed To Safety *Linemen attend safety training*

Jo Carroll Energy Line workers as well as all employees frequently attend meetings geared toward the safety of all in the Jo Carroll Energy service territory. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) facilitates many of these meetings. Employees are not only taught electric power line safety but also other topics like accident prevention, fire extinguisher use, chemical and hazardous material safety and more.

As in any electric cooperative, our business involves equipment and situations that can be very dangerous and even life threatening. Employees are rigorously taught about these potential situations and ways to protect

not only themselves but members and community also. One should feel comforted to know that in addition to electric safety training, cooperative employees are also trained in CPR.

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Jeremy Werner and Justin Rowles rescue dummy during safety training at Jo-Carroll Energy.

WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Ruth Ciha, Bentonville, AZ

John & Eileen Newman and Family, Arlington Heights, IL

Phil and Becky Stewart, Villa Park IL



Planning to Dig? IT'S THE LAW – CALL JULIE

Planning to dig or disturb the earth? **IT'S THE LAW – CALL JULIE** toll free at (800) 892-0123 at least **TWO** working days prior to breaking ground. The call and the service are free to those planning to dig. Recent legislation provides for a significant penalty program to be enforced through the Illinois Commerce Commission.

When requesting a JULIE locate, you will need to provide name, telephone number, county, township or town, closest town and distance, section number, excavation site address, nearest crossroad and the type of work being performed. You will need to keep the dig number and other information you receive from the operator until the work is completed. Each request is in effect for 14 days. It is the responsibility

of the person or excavator performing the work to call JULIE.

The location of Jo-Carroll Energy's underground power cables will be marked with either red flags or red spray paint. It is the responsibility of the owner to inform the excavator of any underground power cables that are **NOT** owned by Jo-Carroll Energy.

Want to learn more about JULIE, check out the Web site at www.illinois1call.com.

*Call
Before
You Dig*

JULIE
ILLINOIS
ONE-CALL SYSTEM



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Be responsible and work safely — call
JULIE at (800) 892-0123 before you dig.

REMEMBER - IT'S THE LAW!

Students to Visit Washington, D.C.

The 2005 "Youth to Washington Program" provides our area's student leaders with an opportunity to get an up-close look at their government.



Jo-Carroll Energy will sponsor Danny Kirst, a junior at Tri State Christian School in Galena, on a week-long, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 17-24, 2005. During the week in the nation's capital, Danny will meet with Senator Dick Durbin. U.S. Representatives and Congressman Manzullo will also meet with students

for a luncheon while on Capitol Hill.

Jo-Carroll Energy's "Youth to Washington" representative was selected from the finalists in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties that were submitted from the area schools and who are sons or daughters of Jo-Carroll Energy members.

Jo-Carroll Energy and its sister cooperatives across the state have sponsored these programs for 46 years in an attempt to introduce students to government and the political process. Today, many "alumni" of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials. One current member of the Illinois General Assembly is an "alumni" of our program.

The finalists met at Jo-Carroll Energy on April 29, 2005, for a pizza party and interviews. Seated from left are winner Danny Kirst and alternate Sahra Bohnsack. Standing are Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Vice President of Operations John Freitag, Laura Kirst, Scott Dieschbourg, and Shane Soppe.

Get protected

A list of cell phone numbers will soon be published for all to have access. This will open doors for solicitors to call you on your cell phone, using up precious minutes and costing you a lot of money. The Federal Trade Commission has set up a "do not call" list. To

include your home or cell number on the "do not call" list, you must call from the number that you wish to register. Call (888) 382-1222 or visit their Web site at www.donotcall.gov and register up to three phone numbers to the do not call list.

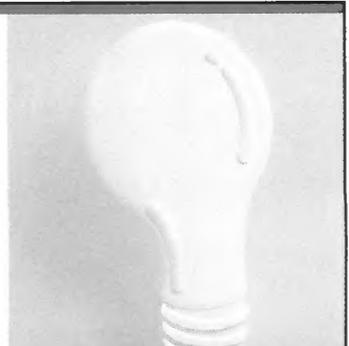
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JO-CARROLL

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Hello! My name is Michael Hastings. I am the new President and CEO of Jo-Carroll Energy. Although new to this position, I have been assisting the co-op for the past 10 years in my previous position as General Counsel for the Association of Illinois Electric Co-ops, Jo-Carroll's statewide trade association. So, I've had the chance to meet and work with the co-op board of directors and staff.

To let you know a bit about me, I was raised on electric co-op lines on a farm in western Kansas. In addition to cattle operations, my family raised primarily wheat and irrigated alfalfa. We also had a small milk operation, milking two to four cows by hand. My Mother raised "feedlot" calves, which were born to heifers in the local feedlot. She bottle-fed 100-125 calves twice a day for many years.

I am married to a wonderful lady named Shauna. We have three

kids. Cevan is 25 and serves in the Army. Although stationed in Germany now, he recently completed a one-year tour in Iraq. We also have two younger children, Will and Olivia. Both are elementary school age and will start school here this fall.

For the last 15 years, I have served the electric co-ops in Kansas and Illinois in several legal and regulatory capacities. I am completely committed to the cooperative form of business. For serving electric customers, I believe it is an excellent business model. Our goal at Jo-Carroll is to provide you, the co-op member owners, with the best electric service possible at a reasonable price.

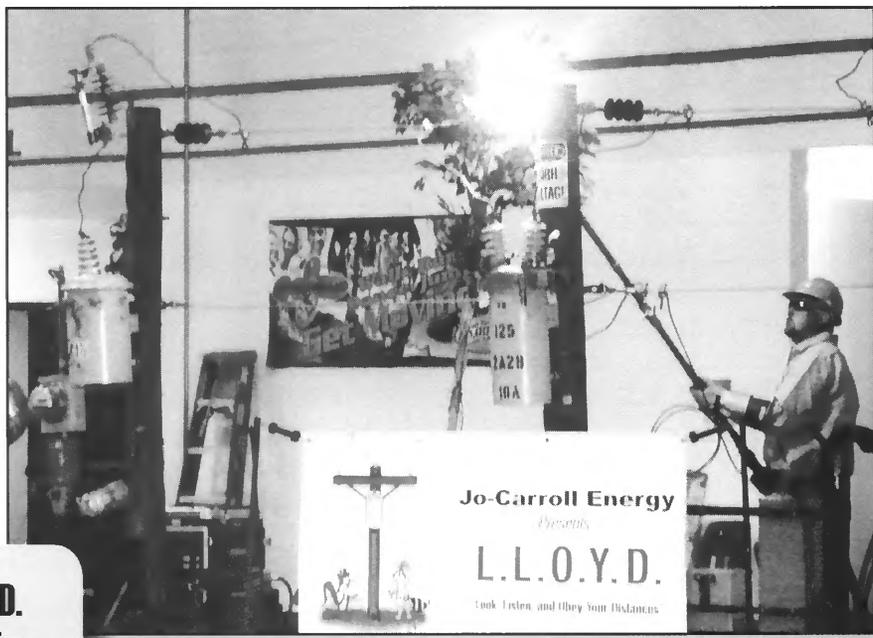
I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months. In the meantime, we will keep the lights on for you!

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

During hours call
(815) 858-2207
or (800) 858-5522.

Hot Line Safety Demo Helps Educate Area Schools About Power Line Safety



**L.L.O.Y.D.
stands for,
LOOK, LISTEN,
AND OBEY
YOUR DISTANCE.**

This fall and winter, L.L.O.Y.D. will make appearances at Carroll County Schools. L.L.O.Y.D. is a hotline safety demonstration created by Jo-Carroll Energy linemen. It is an exact replica of our distribution system.

L.L.O.Y.D. is used to educate and promote safety around power lines. The demonstration is dramatic and has great visual effects. It draws out the hazards of electrical energy if humans were to accidentally come in contact with them. We teach children and adults to stay away from power lines because they can be seriously injured or killed.

We demonstrate what happens when birds, raccoons, squirrels, and other "critters" come in contact with power lines.

The demonstration points out different types of conductive materials that people may not be aware of, such as Mylar balloons and kite string. We also discuss power line safety and general electric awareness, on the farm and at home.

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we are very serious about safety. Educating our children and communities about power line safety is vital and can save lives. **Kurt Rath**

Additional electrical safety information can be obtained at www.safeelectricity.org.

When your power is out... we're on the line!

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity.

Then call Jo-Carroll Energy Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.



During office hours (800) 858-5522 After office hours — dial (800) 927-5254

Talk About Recycling!

We live in a world of fast food, hurried lifestyles and disposable items. That gives many of us a just plain throw away attitude at times. But not Elaine and Gerard Morhardt. They value what most people throw away.

The Morhardts have lived in this area all of their lives and have been Jo-Carroll Energy members since 1966. Gerard runs a cattle farm on 520 acres where Elaine gets involved too. The farm is teeming with wildlife and beautiful terrain.

Both Elaine and Gerard are very talented. Elaine and Gerard have decorated their yard with many unusual decorations. The Morhardts yard is more like an attraction or park setting with all of the unique artwork displayed. Elaine says, "I like to use things that already exist." She and Gerard have created artwork out of natural items that most people would see as waste.

Elaine says, "The stumps were trees that the wind blew over and I thought they were an eye sore, so I decided to do something with them. I think Gerard just rolled his eyes when I told him that I was going to make little houses out of them. I didn't want to destroy the stumps because they belonged with the farm as much as we do and were part of the history. The neighbors and grandchildren contributed in the stump effort too."

Elaine and Gerard are both semi-retired and enjoy the decorating of the yard and spending time with their two grown children and five grandchildren. Elaine says, "The grandkids just love to come to the farm to enjoy nature. They are very artistic too. They have created a fort from sticks and are kind of following in our footsteps, I guess."



Elaine shows off one of the houses she's made from the stumps in her yard.



One of Gerard's creations is an arbor created out of willow sticks and cedar posts. Gerard had to wet and bend the sticks to shape them.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll 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 story, contact Jo-Carroll and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication



WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Joyce Ball & family,
Galena IL

Joe & Stacy Engle,
Galena IL

Steve & Rita Gabbert,
Des Plaines IL

Board Meeting Minutes

Resume of Minutes ■ Regular Board Meeting May 25, 2005

The regular meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. was held at the cooperative office at 9:30 a.m. on May 25, 2005. All board members were present except Janssen. Attorney John Cox was also present. Also present during the presentation by John Freitag of AIEC were Pat Keleher, Richard Larimore, Rick Knipfer, and Dorothy Young.

- The consent agenda was approved.
- John Freitag gave a presentation on the 2004 Member Survey.

Chairman's Comments

- The Chairman suggested that Dorothy Young act as recording secretary.
- The Chairman informed the Board that the vice chair had received a letter from Scenic Rivers inquiring about meeting regarding a merger.
- Board Room confidentiality was addressed by the Chairman.
- The Chairman reported on the Jo-Carroll employee meeting and the Dairyland board meeting.
- The Chairman presented policy 115, Member Attendance & Participation – Regular Board Meeting for review.

CEO's Report

- The CEO reported that a request was received from the NRECA International Foundation for either a

cash donation or for any old unused electric equipment.

- The CEO suggested putting summaries of the board meeting minutes in the cooperative magazine.

Board Issues

- Approved contributing 5% of Jo-Carroll Energy's CFC capital credits refund for the year to the CFC electric territorial integrity fund.
- Approved having a Board Meeting in Springfield while there for the AIEC annual meeting in late July.
- Approved Stanger as the delegate and Simpson as the alternate for the NRECA Region V meeting in Dubuque, Iowa .
- Authorized the ECO proxy in favor of dissolution for the capital stock of ECO, as requested by CFC.
- Authorized the new signature cards for signing at Elizabeth State Bank and the Union Bank .

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported on two pending easements, of which one has been resolved.
- Reports
- Reusch gave a report on the River Ridge Award night he attended with Charles DeLoach.
 - Ricke gave a report on the NRECA Legislative Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

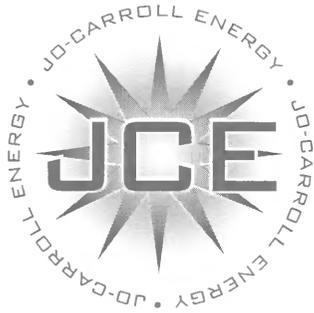
Students represent Jo-Carroll Energy in Washington D.C.



Pictured from left are Congressman Manzullo, Laura Kirst and Danny Kirst.

Danny and Laura Kirst of Galena represented Jo-Carroll Energy in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 17-24. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Congressman Donald Manzullo on Capitol Hill and were among 61 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, the newly dedicated Native American Indian Museum and a number of other historical sites.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Jo-Carroll Energy to Acquire Portion of Alliant Energy Territory

Co-op will purchase electric and natural gas assets in Illinois counties of Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside

As most of you have heard by now, Jo-Carroll Energy signed a definitive agreement with Alliant Energy Corporation on June 30, 2005, to purchase the electric and natural gas distribution assets of Interstate Power and Light Company (IP&L) in the state of Illinois. IP&L is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alliant Energy. The acquisition includes all IP&L electric and natural gas service territory in the Illinois counties of Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside.

Once the transaction is complete, current IP&L customers in Illinois will become member/owners of Jo-Carroll Energy. The acquisition will add approximately 12,800 electric and 5,500 natural gas customers to the co-op, nearly tripling its size.

This purchase will be extremely beneficial to all of Jo-Carroll Energy's current members. I have already taken many of your calls and realize that there are a lot of questions about the transaction. Here are some of the reasons I believe that this transaction makes so much sense for the current Jo-Carroll Energy members:

1. Jo-Carroll is currently a small cooperative. By adding additional members to Jo-Carroll, the costs of running the co-op can be spread among more members. This will reduce the pressure on future rate increases. As all of you know, the cost of everything seems to be on the rise. Fuel costs have especially hit our pocketbooks hard over the past year. The cost of generating electricity continues to rise because of fuel costs. The purchase of the Alliant Energy service territory and the addi-

tion of new members will help keep our cost of electricity down.

2. Over the past years, Jo-Carroll and Alliant have built separate electric distribution systems in the same basic geographic area. Jo-Carroll's service area either surrounds or abuts almost all of the current Alliant service area in northwest Illinois. By tying the two electric systems together over the next years, Jo-Carroll will be

able to increase the reliability of electric service to the entire membership. This will reduce outages, which nobody likes. Increased reliability will be a great long-term benefit of this purchase.

3. Jo-Carroll's operations will become more efficient because of this transaction. Presently, the co-op has its headquarters in Elizabeth.

Alliant has facilities in both Savanna and Galena. This means that Jo-Carroll will be in a much better position to serve the members of western Jo Daviess County as well as the members in Carroll and Whiteside Counties after the acquisition. Increased efficiency will mean better service for all of us.

There are other reasons why this purchase is beneficial, and I will continue to address these issues over the coming months. We are currently conducting informational meetings about the acquisition in a "Town Hall" type format. It is our intention to make sure that all members are informed. By now, some of you may already have attended an informational meeting about the acquisition and the co-op plans to have more. I hope to see you at one of the "Town Hall" meetings. In the meantime, we'll keep the lights on for you.

This purchase will be extremely beneficial to all of Jo-Carroll Energy's current members.

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Jo-Carroll Linemen Help Restore Power After Hurricane Dennis

Bill Allen and Rick Tippett left Sunday morning, July 7, for Southern Pine Electric Cooperative in Brewton, Alabama. They joined linemen from seven other Illinois electric cooperatives to help restore power from extensive damage expected from Hurricane Dennis.

More than 120,000 Alabama electric cooperative households and businesses were left in the dark on July 10 after Hurricane Dennis churned through the southern and

mph, on a northwesterly course that would take it across about a third of the state.

In advance of the storm, power restoration coordinators at the Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives (AREA) had lined up crews from sister electric cooperatives from as far away as Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and North Carolina.

"We knew this storm was coming and we knew it had the potential of being an extremely powerful storm," said Fred Braswell, AREA president. "We began lining up extra crews several days before the storm hit."

Jo-Carroll Energy Linemen Bill Allen and Rick Tippett were among more than 1,000 line workers ready to aid Alabama's electric cooperatives in power restoration efforts. Dozens more linemen from out of state were staged in or near the state waiting out the storm. As it turned out, 289 line workers were brought in from out of state.

"We were fortunate that this storm did not hit the coast with as much power as it had earlier," said Baswell. "The damage could have been much, much worse."

Alabama's electric cooperatives had restored power to all residents capable of receiving it by the following Thursday.



western sections of the state. Throughout Alabama, high winds, heavy rain, and sporadic tornadoes spun off the storm, accounting for several thousand additional outages.

Dennis slammed into the panhandle of Florida in early afternoon as a strong Category three hurricane with sustained winds of near 120 mph. Several hours before landfall, Dennis was packing winds in excess of 150 mph. It entered Alabama a short time later in Escambia County, with winds still more than 100

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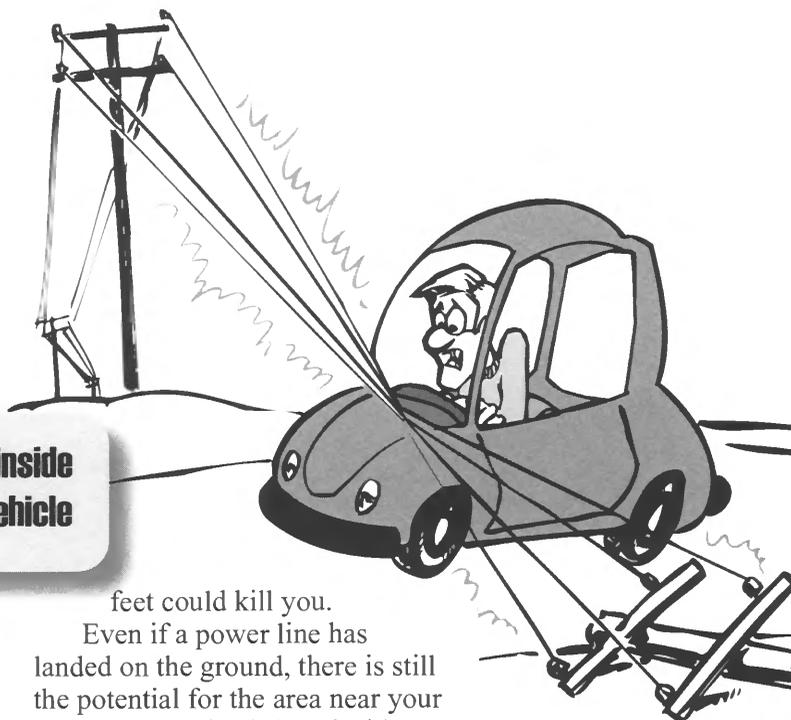


Escaping a Vehicle That is in Contact With Power Lines

Remain calm, stay in the vehicle and call for help. Ask someone to call the electric utility, and a lineman will be sent to disconnect the power. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the tragic result. Wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

The only exception would be if fire or the smell of gasoline were present. In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area. **Susan Barr**

Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source. Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both



**Stay inside
the vehicle**

feet could kill you.

Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the occupants simply step out of the vehicle—they must jump clear.

Source: safeelectricity.com

SOAR



With programs designed to support our local schools and businesses, we're helping build a community that allows our children to soar to the highest reaches of their abilities.

*We're member-owned co-ops
and proud to support
our local communities.*



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Reader prize

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WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE!

We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Bill & Colleen Fitzgerald,
Apple River, IL

Chad Sproule, Galena, IL

Chris & Laurel George &
family, Naperville, IL

Office Closing

Our office will be closed Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting June 22, 2005

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc., was held at the cooperative office at 9:30 a.m. on June 22, 2005. All board members were present. Attorney John Cox and recording secretary Dorothy Young was also present. Scott Piehn and Jay Butson of Computer Dynamics were present at the time of their report.

- The consent agenda was approved omitting the operating report.
- The operating report was discussed and approved pending a report back on several questions.

Chairman's Comments

- The Chairman reminded the board about the upcoming ACRE Membership drive.
- The Chairman reported cell phone expense of about \$150.00 related specifically to Jo-Carroll business over the last several months. The board approved payment of his co-op related cell phone calls for \$150.00.

Computer Dynamics Update

- Jay Butson and Scott Piehn of Computer Dynamics gave an update presentation of the status on JCWIFI (internet service).

Strategic Activity

- Janssen presented policy 116, Member & Non-Member Requests for Cooperative Information for review. The policy was approved as presently stated.
- The CEO reported on recent acquisition meetings regarding the Alliant service area, discussing pending issues and issues that have been resolved.

CEO's Report

- The CEO reported that a Jo-Carroll Energy cost of service study is being done by the AIEC.
- The CEO reported that a number of changes are being made to improve the safety programs at Jo-Carroll.
- The CEO reported on some staffing changes regarding the assignment of co-op duties.
- The CEO discussed the process acquisition timetable regarding the Alliant territory and the new co-op members.
- The Board approved putting summaries of the Board minutes in the Illinois Country Living magazine and on Jo-Carroll's web site.
- The CEO reported on a meeting with Mayor Schaible of Hanover.

Board Issues

- Accepted an increase in the acquisition loan commitment and the commitment letter from received from CFC in the amount of three million dollars.
- Approved plan presented by the CEO to resolve several outstanding issues with Dairyland Power.
- The AIEC Annual meeting voting delegates were chosen, including delegates to the NRECA annual meeting for Illinois.
- Jo-Carroll elected Vernon Law as its AIEC representative and John Janssen as its alternate.

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported on a pending easement, which has been resolved.

Reports

- Ricke gave a report on the Dairyland Annual Meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Special Board Meeting June 29, 2005

A special board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc., was held at the cooperative office at 1:00 p.m. on June 29, 2005. Formal notice of this meeting was waived; at the co-op's regular board meeting held June 22, 2005, it was announced that June 29th was a possible special board meeting date. All board members were present except Chris Stadel. Attorney John Cox, Richard Larimore, and recording secretary Dorothy Young was also present.

- The consent agenda was approved.

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported on several pending legal issues.

CEO's Report

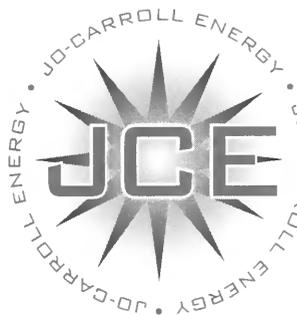
- The CEO gave an update on the Alliant acquisition. An asset purchase agreement between Jo-Carroll Energy and Alliant Energy was entered into on June 30, 2005 for the purchase of Interstate Power and Light's electric and natural gas distribution assets in Northwest Illinois. Interstate Power and Light is a subsidiary of Alliant Energy.

Board Issues

- The Board approved the creation of a new Jo-Carroll Energy subsidiary corporation, N W I Natural Gas, Inc., for the planned purpose of future natural gas operations.

Other Business

- New co-op polo shirts for the directors to wear when representing the co-op were discussed. Two colors were chosen.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.



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October is Cooperative Month

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

October is Cooperative Month and therefore a great time to pause and reflect upon the many advantages the cooperative form of business provides to all of us. This is especially timely as we continue with Jo-Carroll Energy member meetings to discuss the Alliant Energy service territory acquisition. As I write this article, your co-op staff has completed two area member meetings and will conduct two more very soon. These meetings have given your co-op staff the opportunity to tell the co-op story to old and new co-op members alike.

Some of many positive attributes of the cooperative business model that we have been discussing include the following:

- **Local service from local people.** Jo-Carroll Energy is right here in northwest Illinois. All of the co-op employees live in the area to serve you better.
- **Fast response times to outages.** Because we are local, Jo-Carroll Energy can respond quickly to outages to get the power back on for you.
- **Your money stays in your community.** Jo-Carroll Energy has no stockholders because our owners are all of you, the members, and your money stays right here to serve you and support our local communities in which we live.
- **You elect the leadership.** Jo-Carroll Energy is a democratic organization. The member owners elect directors to represent them on the board – those directors

are not only neighbors but also member owners themselves. Decisions are made based on the best outcome for all the members, not stockholders in another state or country.

■ **Not-for-profit.** Jo-Carroll Energy is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. Our mission is to provide you with the highest quality of service at the lowest practical price. Profit motives and accounting tricks just are not in the mix when your passion is to serve the member owners.

Having had the incredible good fortune to do

some new co-op development work in the Chicago area over the past decade, I know how important it is to communicate the benefits of co-op ownership to people that are new to the cooperative concept. The old adage “if it is too good to be true, it probably is” comes to mind because sometimes people initially find it difficult to believe a business model could be so attractive and deliver so much. What I have found in my experience, however, is that when people catch on, they really like the idea. Not only are co-ops a great way to do business, they are also a lot of fun! In my humble opinion, cooperatives are the best way to deliver a number of services, including utility-related services to rural and small-town areas.

It has been great visiting with you! I hope to see you at a member meeting over the next few weeks. Until then, we'll keep the lights on for you.

COOPERATIVES



Businesses People Trust

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Did you know that...?

- Ben Franklin formed the first successful cooperative in 1752.
- Toad Lane in England is considered the birthplace of the modern cooperative because many of the principles that guide cooperatives were formed there in 1844. **Robert Jones**
- Cooperatives are guided by seven internationally recognized principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for the communities they serve.
- Cooperatives are formed by producers to sell their products, by workers who own and operate the company they work for, by consumers who use a service or product, and by small business owners

and municipalities to share purchases of goods and services in order to increase their purchasing power.

- Electric cooperatives provide electric service to the member-owners at the cost of service. The members share any profit either through investment in the company or by credit to the member-owners.

- Electric cooperatives own 2.4 million miles or 43 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines and deliver 10 percent of the total kilowatt-hours in the United States annually.

- Electric cooperatives serve 12 percent of the population in the United States and employ 63,000 people.

- Land O Lakes, Ocean Spray and Sunkist brands are all produced by cooperatives.

- Ace Hardware and True Value are owned and operated by cooperatives.

H E A L T H F A I R

Jo-Carroll Energy and Jo-Daviess County Health Department invite members to the third annual "Health Fair"



**Nov. 2, 2005
8:00 a.m.**

**Jo-Carroll Energy's
office at
793 U.S. Route 20
West, Elizabeth, Ill.**



- Blood pressure checked- FREE
- Cholesterol Triglycerides. High Density Lipoprotein, Low Density Lipoprotein.-FREE!
- Above Cholesterol test along with blood chemistry test.- \$11.00
- Complete blood count- \$ 6.00 (must be done in conjunction with cholesterol or cholesterol & Blood Chemistry.)
- High sensitivity-C-Reactive Protein (hs-CRP) - \$16.00
- PSA test for men - \$22.00 Physicians order required – results sent to your physician you must bring physician's order to screening.
- TSH, a thyroid test - \$22.00 Physicians order required – results sent to your physician you must bring physician's order to screening.

* Fasting is required

1. Eat a low fat meal the night before your blood is drawn for cholesterol testing.
2. From 8:00 p.m. until midnight, drink only coffee or water.
3. From midnight until your blood is drawn, **DO NOT** eat or drink.
4. Prescription medications may be taken with a sip of water.

**Call Dorothy Young at JCE to schedule your tests at
(800) 858-5522 extension 211.**

Visit our
Web site at
www.jocarroll.com

Geothermal Cookout

Jo-Carroll Energy hosted a cookout and presentation for area builders and contractors at the Galena Territory Pavilion on August 10. The topic was geothermal heating and cooling.

What is geothermal?

Geothermal is a market that is very much on the rise and many requests for information are coming into the offices of builders, contractors and Jo-Carroll Energy.

Geoexchange systems (also known as geothermal) work on a different principle than an ordinary furnace/air conditioning system, and they require little maintenance or attention. Furnaces must create heat by burning a fuel--typically natural gas, propane, or fuel oil. With geoexchange systems, there's no need to create heat, hence no need for chemical combustion. Instead, the earth's natural heat is collected through a series of pipes, called a loop, installed below the surface of the ground or submersed in a pond or lake. Fluid circulating in the loop carries this heat to the home.

Help with financing

Communities and non-profit organizations can now receive money for the installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems through a program administered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Some examples of eligible facilities include:

- Public and Private Schools
- Churches
- Libraries
- Community Centers



- Municipal Buildings
- Other Community or Non-profit Buildings

For more information about this program visit www.aiec.coop

Resources for Geothermal Information

- **ClimateMaster** - www.enertechinc.com
- **WaterFurnace** - www.waterfurnace.com
- **HydroHeat**- www.hydro-heat.com/index.html
- **Trane** - www.trane.com/residential/right-product/
- **EPA ENERGY STAR Labeled Products** - www.epa.gov/appdstar/hvac/prodghp.html
- **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation** - www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org
- **Ground Source Heat Pump Consortium**- www.ghpc.org
- **International Ground Source Heat Pump Association** - www.igshpa.okstate.edu
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network, U.S. Dept. of Energy** - www.eren.doe.gov/geothermal
- **Geo-Heat Center** - geoheat.oit.edu

Reader prize

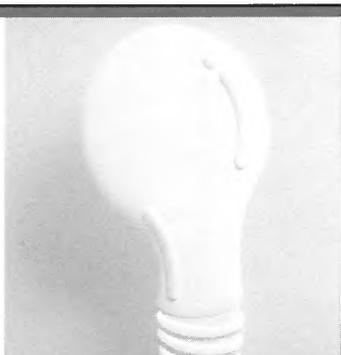
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We would like to introduce a few of Jo-Carroll Energy's newest members!

Brad Duckett,
Oswego, IL

Jeffery & Maureen
Jensik, Galena, IL

Jack Tucker,
Galena, IL

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting July 27, 2005

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. was held at Springfield, IL at 4:30 p.m. on July 27, 2005, following attendance of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Annual meeting. All board members were present, except Lundy, Reusch, and Stadel. Attorney John Cox was also present.

- Two member requests were discussed regarding waivers of co-op policies. The first had to do with pedestal damages of approximately \$200.00 and the second with the line extension policy. It was the consensus of the Board to follow the relevant co-op policy for both issues.
- The consent agenda was approved.

Chairman's Comments

- The Chairman commented on the NRECA Course "Rules & Procedures for Effective Board and Membership Meetings" that board members had attended that day.
- The Chairman reported on Reusch's calls and formation of a nominating committee. This will be addressed in an upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

Strategic Activity

- Janssen presented Policy 117, Use of the Multi-Purpose Room. The policy was approved as presently written.
- Policy 123, Specified Living Distance from Place of Employment was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that an administrative policy is in place that deals with this issue. The Board approved the repeal of Policy 123.
- The CEO reported on recent acquisition meetings, discussed the schedules,

the filing at the ICC, and the Jo-Carroll testimony being developed.

CEO's Report

- The CEO reported on the staff re-organization.
- The CEO reported on the questions from the June Operating Report.
- The CEO discussed the August board meeting.

Board Issues

- Committee meeting plans and schedules were discussed. Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled at night. An audit selection committee was named consisting of Janssen, Stanger, Simpson, and Attorney Cox.

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported on an easement issue, which has been resolved and recorded.
- Attorney Cox reported on a separate easement issue with a member and the August 15th deadline to resolve the issue.
- Attorney Cox reported on the meeting he attended that addressed electric cooperative issues.
- Attorney Cox reported on the subsidiary organization and getting the bylaws approved.

Other Business

- Plans for the NRECA Regional Meeting in Dubuque, Iowa were discussed.

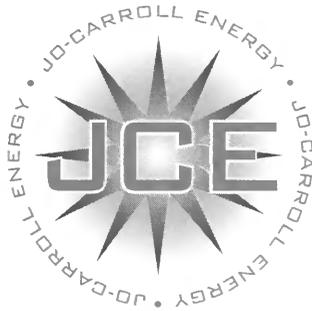
The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Jo Daviess 4-H Fair electricity projects judged 7/19/05

- Zane Elliott (far right) from the Good News Clover 4-H club receives trophy for his Champion Electricity exhibit
- Gavin Wandsnider (near right) from the Menominee Achievers received a Blue Ribbon and a trip to state with his Electric Box.





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JO-CARROLL

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

This summer, five Jo-Carroll Energy linemen volunteered to help sister co-ops in the Gulf States restore power from hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, and Rita. Bill Allen, Rick Tippett, Jeremy Werner, Donnie Altfillisch, and Justin Rolwes put themselves in harms way and worked many long hours to rebuild electric systems that were ravaged from these monster storms in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

There wasn't time to finish repairing the damage from one storm

before another storm would hit. Early reports on the electrical system damage from Katrina, for example, seemed surreal and hard to believe.

- 449,000 members in Louisiana were without service; 64% of the statewide total.
- All Louisiana electrical systems reporting outages.
- One system had 30,000 poles on the ground.
- 9 of 25 Louisiana distribution co-ops had virtually no meters left operating.
- More than 1,000 emergency linemen from seven states were initially called in to help.
- Eventually, 10,000 co-op linemen from Mississippi and 19 other states as far away as Delaware assisted in the restoration.

Cooperatives from around the country responded quickly: Linemen from Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina,

■ *continued on 16b*



Jo Carroll Energy Line Workers aid in hurricane restoration.



Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

During hours call
(815) 858-2207
or (800) 858-5522.

Nominating Committee Established For 2006 Director Elections

■ continued from 16a

and South Carolina were some of the first on the scene.

Why do they go?

NRECA CEO Glenn English may have said it best when he spoke to hundreds of linemen from dozens of co-ops working to restore power in the affected area. "The cooperative spirit will prevail over the destruction wrought by hurricane Katrina. I know each and every one of you is working as hard as is humanly possible to restore power to people that desperately need it, and that effort will succeed." English told a crew from South Carolina that those who came to help dur-

ing the crisis give meaning, value, and strength to the national cooperative movement. "Pulling together like this and being willing to sacrifice and come all this way to assist your fellow cooperatives in need is what sets cooperatives apart," English said.

Some of you remember the days before electric cooperatives were formed. Life then was more difficult and rural families and communities would band together to help one another. Like the "barn builders" of old, that spirit of helping one another is still visible today among electric cooperatives. **Jim Meyers**

A nominating committee made up of Jo-Carroll Energy members choose the nominees who will appear on the 2006 director election ballot. This year's nominating committee will meet on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. to submit names

for the ballot. Any member interested in becoming a candidate should contact this committee at the phone numbers listed for the prospective district. Directors are to be elected in Districts 5, 7, and 8 this year.

DISTRICT #5 - Reusch	DISTRICT #7 - Simpson	DISTRICT #8 - Law
Richard Groezinger, 6318 S. Gras Rd., Elizabeth, IL 61028, (815) 598-3232	Gerard Morhardt, 13446A West Point Road, Mt Carroll, IL 61053, (815) 244-9562	Harlan Brunner, 15416 Scenic Bluff Rd, Savanna, IL 61074, (815) 273-3189
Marion Huttenlocker, 4011 E. Center Rd., Stockton, IL 61085, (815) 858-3385	Keith Rath, 12561 Elizabeth Rd, Savanna, IL 61074, (815) 244-1959	Leroy Getz, 11576 Jacobstown Rd, Savanna, IL 61074, (815) 273-7396
Wayne Wand, 6014 S. Derinda Rd., Elizabeth, IL 61028, (815) 598-3263	Dave Senn, 13575 West Point Rd, Mt Carroll, IL 61053, (815) 244-9861	Allen Krum, 15257 Airport Rd., Mt. Carroll, IL 61053, (815) 244-9235

Dual Fuel Testing

Fall 2005 test of interruptible heating (Dual Fuel) loads in preparation for winter control

If you participate in a residential dual fuel or heating load management program, the system will be tested beginning at 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday, November 16, 2005.** This means that controlled electric heating will be turned off at 5:00 p.m. and remain off throughout the evening. During the time the elec-

tric heat is off, customers will rely on their back-up heating systems. All electric heating systems will be turned back on by 11:15 p.m.

If you experience any problems with your heating system during this test, please contact Jo-Carroll Energy at (800) 858-5522.

Visit our
Web site at
www.jocarroll.com

Students Encouraged To Apply for 2006 Scholarships

Jo Carroll Energy President/CEO Michael Hastings has announced that for the eleventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. Five scholarships in 2006 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth \$1,250.

High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Three scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship (new for 2006) will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible.

In addition, for the fourth year, JCE will award two \$500 academic scholarships to eligible high school seniors in Jo-Daviess and Carroll Counties. One \$500 JCE scholarship will be awarded within each County (Jo Daviess & Carroll) to the applicant who is most qualified.

The JCE scholarships are for current seniors who are sons or daughters of active Jo-Carroll Energy members, and who are planning to pursue a formal post high school education.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Hastings. "Jo Carroll Energy and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates for the JCE and IEC

Memorial Scholarship are judged based on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that



Daisha Boehm, River Ridge High School



Margaret Haas, Savanna High School

demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The deadline for returning scholarship applications to Jo-Carroll Energy is January 1, 2006.

For further information on the Jo-Carroll Energy and IEC Memorial Scholarship program, contact Charles DeLoach, Director of Communications, at (800) 858-5522 or ask your high school guidance counselor.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll 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 story, contact Jo-Carroll and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication

Closing Dates • Closing Dates • Closing Dates

Jo-Carroll Energy will be closed on Friday November 11 for Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for Thanksgiving.



**WELCOME
TO THE
COOPERATIVE!**

**We would like to
introduce a few
of Jo-Carroll Energy's
newest members!**

Sharon Kramer,
Wheaton, IL

Gary Morrison,
Palatine, IL

Phillip Cullen,
Downers Grove, IL

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting August 24, 2005

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. was held at the cooperative office at 9:30 a.m. on August 24, 2005. Board members present: Bernie Bosch, Jack Janssen, Vernon Law, Tom Lundy, Dick Reusch, Leonard Ricke, Russ Simpson, Chris Stadel, and Marcy Stanger. Attorney John Cox, recording secretary Dorothy Young, and senior staff – Pat Keleher, Karen Hirsch, Richard Larimore, and Rick Knipfer were also present. Charlie DeLoach was present at the time of his report.

- The consent agenda was approved.

Chairman's Comments

- The Chairman commented on the letter received from Glenn English, NRECA President & CEO, regarding a Board Chairman survey about the cooperative's interface with NRECA.

- The Chairman reported on the NRECA Courses being offered at the Region V Meeting held at Dubuque, IA and a discussion followed. Director courses were approved to be taken this year at the Region V Meeting.

- The Chairman discussed future Board meeting times. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the September and October board meetings at 7:00 P.M. due to the fall harvest schedules.

Strategic Activity

- Janssen presented Policy 118, No Smoking Policy. The policy was approved as presently written.

- Janssen reported on the Jo-Carroll Policy Committee meeting. Matters under review include a draft of a Chairman of the Board position description, a review of Policy 114 - Contributions and Donations, and a policy for board dress code.

- Janssen reported on the board districts.

The board adopted a resolution for reapportionment of Jo-Carroll member districts after the acquisition of the Alliant Energy service territory.

- The Chairman reported on the Jo-Carroll Member Communications Committee Meeting. He recommended that a presentation be given to the full board quarterly.

CEO's Report

- The CEO reported on the acquisition asset purchase agreement schedules, rates, meetings-P/R & communications, cost of service study, union negotiations, & Dairyland Power activities.

Board Issues

- The Region V Meeting in Dubuque, Iowa was discussed. The CFC voting delegate and alternate were chosen. Simpson is the delegate and Bosch is the alternate.

- DeLoach presented three possibilities for Jo-Carroll annual meeting gifts. It was the consensus of the Board to give two DuraBright CFL bulbs. The annual meeting was briefly discussed. Ricke submitted a name for annual meeting speaker. An annual meeting committee meeting will be set for September.

- Union Negotiations committee members were named. They are Simpson and Stadel.

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported on an easement issue, which has been resolved.
- Attorney Cox reported that the easement form had been revised.
- Attorney Cox reported on a phone call received from the attorney for the City of Savanna.

Other Business

- The Board went into executive session at 11:35 AM and came out of executive session at 12:00 noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

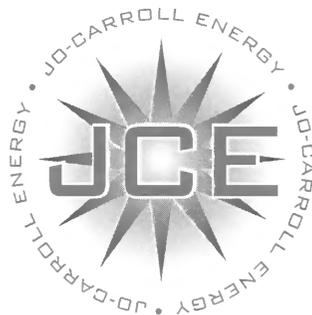
When your power is out... we're on the line!

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity.

Then call Jo-Carroll Energy Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Helping Your Neighbors

The holidays are a time to reflect, share, and celebrate community. Working together as a community to accomplish common goals is at the heart of the cooperative philosophy. In keeping with this spirit of community, Jo-Carroll Energy is pleased to announce the creation of a new low-income energy assistance program.

Occasionally, life can throw us an unexpected curve, and suddenly, making ends meet seems impossible. One of the great things about living in this part of the world is that when times are tough, we can count on our neighbors to help us through to the other side.

The people of Jo-Carroll Energy are your neighbors too, and we want to make sure we are doing our part to help out when those unexpected hardships befall our neighbors. To accomplish this, we are working with the Northwest Illinois Community Action Agency and the Tri-County Opportunities Council to provide energy grants to good folks who need some help keeping the lights on when times are tough. The program is similar to other energy assistance programs run throughout the state.

"We want to make sure we are doing our part to help out."

How the program works

Jo-Daviess County members who meet certain income criteria may apply directly to the Northwest Illinois Community Action Agency to receive these grants. Carroll County members who meet certain income criteria may apply directly to the Tri-County Opportunities Council.

To fund this program, we will phase in a small fee over the course of two years. On January 1, 2006, all residential customers will contribute 20 cents per month and commercial accounts will contribute \$2.00 per month. In 2007, the contribution will increase to 40 cents and \$4.00 respectively.

In other words, for less than the cost of one lunch per year at a drive-through, our members can help ensure that none of the hardworking people in our communities will be left without electricity.

As we join family and friends to count our blessings and celebrate the future, don't forget one of the greatest blessings we all share: The good fortune of living in a great community surrounded by good neighbors who are always there when you need them.

That principal helped create Jo-Carroll Energy nearly 70 years ago and it will ensure our continued prosperity well into the future.

Enjoy this season with the people you love, and best wishes for a safe and happy new year!



**WELCOME
TO THE
COOPERATIVE!**

**We would like to
introduce a few
of Jo-Carroll Energy's
newest members!**

Hernan Rivera,
Wood Dale, IL

George Rett,
Marengo, IL

Margaret & Barry Shear,
Palatine, IL

**Visit our
Web site at
www.jocarroll.com**

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting September 28, 2005

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. was held at the cooperative office at 7:00 p.m. on September 28, 2005. All Board members present: Bernie Bosch, Jack Janssen, Vernon Law, Tom Lundy, Dick Reusch, Leonard Ricke, Russ Simpson, Chris Stadel, and Marcy Stanger. Attorney John Cox, recording secretary Dorothy Young, President & CEO Michael Hastings, and senior staff – Pat Keleher, Karen Hirsch, Richard Larimore, and Rick Knipfer were also present.

- The chairman reviewed procedure for formulation and eventual approval of the preliminary board agenda.
- The consent agenda was approved with the addition of two items.

Chairman's Comments

- The Chairman commented on NRECA Capital Credit seminar he attended at Region V meeting in Dubuque, IA.
- The Chairman thanked the directors who attended the Jo-Carroll Energy community member meetings.

Strategic Activity

- Janssen reported on the following items from the Policy Committee meeting: Policy 114-Contribution & Donations needed no further action; recommended Attorney Cox and the CEO work on suggested language to Policy 104 to bring back to the Policy Committee; recommended that the board consider passage of the position description for the chairman of the board at the October Board meeting; adopted as modified dress code Policy 102E; considered possible modification to the Jo-Carroll mission statement--board discussed and tabled the modification; approved Policy 121-Safety & Training for the safety accreditation program as presently written; and approved monthly policy 119-Nepotism as presently written.
- Janssen then asked the CEO to address the Board on the issue of the proper role of the CEO & Chairman of the Board. A written report was also provided.
- Janssen reported on the Audit Selection Committee meeting and their

recommendation to hire Bennett & Middendorf of Quincy, IL for the 2005 audit and Dryer & Kelso, P.C., P.A., Mission, KS for Jo-Carroll's 2005 FAS-106 calculation. Both firms were approved for 2005.

CEO's Report

- The CEO reported on the following: Alliant Energy acquisition update, community meetings held, focus group study report, the status of legal and regulatory issues, JCE return check increase, AIEC retained to assist with JCE rate development, Dairyland settlement report, union negotiations, low income energy assistance/renewable energy assistance charges, geothermal rebate, oil spill, and a JCWIFI broadband over powerlines (BPL) test. The CEO asked for and received ratification on the additional cost for the SEDC computer and billing-related equipment that was in excess of the budgeted amount.

Board Issues

- The CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis was reviewed.
- Law, Reusch and Simpson submitted their names for their nominating committee and they were approved by the board.

Legal Update

- Attorney Cox reported that several old easement issues were resolved and that there are now several new easement issues being addressed.
- Attorney Cox recommended that NWI Natural Gas, Inc. hold an organization meeting and an initial board meeting. This is a subsidiary of Jo-Carroll Energy. The Jo-Carroll Energy Board Meeting was briefly recessed to hold these meetings.

Report

- The Region V meeting held in Dubuque, IA was reported on by those directors that attended the meeting.

Other Business

- Janssen reported on a manure/methane digester project near Pearl City, IL.
- Bosch recommended and the board approved that the NRECA director certificates be displayed on the board room wall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

A Good Time to Consider GEOHERMAL TECHNOLOGY

By Nancy Nixon

Now is the time to consider a residential geothermal heating/cooling system. In an effort to encourage more energy efficient homes, part of the new energy bill signed recently by President Bush details how consumers who install new geothermal heat pumps in 2007 or 2008 will be rewarded with a tax credit. The tax credit will total 10 percent of the installed price, up to a maximum of \$300. There are minimum efficiency requirements the system must meet for tax credit eligibility. Contact your local electric cooperative for details prior to installing a new system.

Benefits of geothermal systems are numerous, with lower heating and cooling costs topping the list.

Geothermal systems average 40 percent greater efficiency than air source heat pumps, 48 percent greater efficiency than the best gas furnaces, and 75 percent greater efficiency than oil furnaces. Geothermal systems have the added advantage of providing a home or business with free hot water – supplying on average approximately 30 percent of hot water needs. And many electric cooperatives offer special incentives for geothermal users.

Geothermal heat pumps have fewer mechanical components, and have no exposure to outdoor elements, making them more reliable, easier to service, and less prone to failure. The expected life span of a geothermal unit is 30-35 years, compared to 15 years for a conventional furnace. Ground loops have a life expectancy of hundreds of years.

With no dangerous fumes, no flame, and no flue, geothermal systems are also safer.

Geothermal systems are more comfortable and quieter. Constant fan velocities and longer fan running

times allow the temperature to stay as consistent by the wall or ceiling as it is by the floor. And having no outdoor fan unit makes the unit's operation whisper quiet. You may not even know it's running.

Here are some interesting facts from the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium:

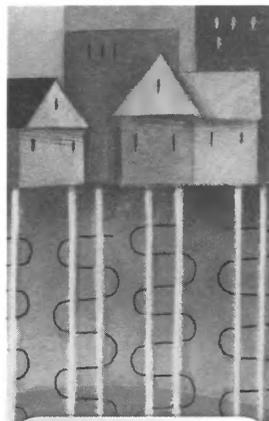
- Using geothermal technology, a typical 1,500-square-foot home in a moderate climate can be heated and cooled all year for an average of \$1 per day.

- Today, more than 500,000 geothermal heat pumps are installed in the U.S., resulting in annual savings of 4 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) of electricity, eliminating the need for 20 trillion BTUs of fossil fuels, cutting peak electrical demand by 1.3 million kilowatts (kw), and slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 3 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

- Geothermal installations to date equate to converting 650,000 cars to zero-emission vehicles, planting 190 million trees, reducing U.S. reliance on imported fuels by 11 million barrels of crude oil per year, or eliminating the need for one 1,300-megawatt (MW) power plant.

Heating and cooling costs will likely continue to rise in years to come. Reliance on foreign oil will continue to increase, and the price of propane and natural gas will continue to skyrocket. Using geothermal technology for heating and cooling just makes good sense.

For more information about geothermal systems, contact your local electric cooperative, log on to the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium Web site at www.geoexchange.org, or call them at (202) 558-7175.



Visit
www.jocarroll.com
for more
geothermal
information.

Reader prize

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Doug Rye, The "King of Caulk and Talk" is Coming to a Radio Near You!

Jo-Carroll Energy President and CEO Michael Hastings announces that the cooperative has agreed to co-sponsor the "Home Remedies" radio program beginning Nov. 6, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. on WCCI 100.3 FM. Doug Rye, the host of the hour-long show, provides tips on home energy savings from air source heat pumps to insulation. Each week, Rye dons his headphones and hits the airwaves to promote energy efficiency to listeners in 17 states.

"At Jo-Carroll Energy, we believe very strongly in educating our members on energy efficiency and ways to reduce their energy bills. Doug Rye has straightforward, no-nonsense advice that will help listeners in our service area during this time of rising energy prices," said Hastings. "We're pleased to sponsor him both on WCCI, at statewide events, and by featuring his column in our *Illinois Country Living* magazine each month."



Learn How to Lower Your Energy Bills

Rye began learning about energy efficiency more than 30 years ago and is a well-renowned expert on the subject. Known as the "King of Caulk and Talk," Rye provides tips to help callers to his "Home Remedies" show lower their energy bills for 14 years, and for many years through energy efficiency seminars and magazine columns, the Energy Solutions column in this magazine.

To order Doug's video on building techniques for energy-efficient homes or for more information, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.

OFFICE CLOSING - OFFICE CLOSING - OFFICE CLOSING - O

Our office will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for Christmas and Monday, January 2 for the New Year.

Announcing expanded office hours!

To better accommodate members of Jo-Carroll Energy, our office hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. effective January 1, 2006.

