



# JO-CARROLL

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

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## CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

# Happy Earth Day month!

Having been raised on a farm, conservation and sustainability have always been a big part of my life. Fast forward several years and I've been involved in the engineering, development and operation of several clean energy projects. Most recently, prior to joining the Jo-Carroll Energy (Jo-Carroll) team, I was the lead project engineer on a solar deployment acceleration project team that worked with cooperatives across the nation to lower the cost of solar.

With all that in mind, I am excited to announce that more of the power our cooperative purchases will be produced from renewable resources.

That's because, as of April 1, 100 percent of our electric power supply will be from electric generation and transmission cooperatives - Dairyland Power Cooperative to our north and Prairie Power to our south. Dairyland Power has an extensive renewable portfolio that includes wind, solar and hydro. Just to our north is the Quilt Block wind farm near Darlington, Wis. Dairyland Power purchases the entire energy output of the 98-megawatt wind farm that will produce enough clean electricity to power more than 25,000 households in Dairyland's four-state service area. Dairyland also recently developed approximately 20 megawatts of solar generation and is in the process of developing additional solar generation, possibly in Jo-Carroll's service territory.

To our south in Illinois are two 500-kilowatt solar farms and a 20-megawatt wind farm that supply power to Prairie Power. The solar and wind combined will provide clean, emissions-free energy to approximately 6,000 households.

**Stephen McCauliff**

As a cooperative member, your voice counts, and we continue to work closely with

Dairyland and Prairie Power and their other member cooperatives to expand the percentage of renewable energy in our region where it makes the most sense from a reliability and economic standpoint.

It is also exciting to see you, our member-owners, developing renewable generation. If you have an interest in developing your own renewable resources, we are here to help you make an informed decision and guide you through the process. We are currently working closely with a number of contractors to safely interconnect systems.

I can't emphasize "safely" enough, not only for your own safety, but our line crews. If not properly interconnected, the consequences could be disastrous. For your convenience and safety, Jo-Carroll is developing a public facing section of our website at jocarroll.com to help guide you and/or your contractor in the process and who to contact at Jo-Carroll.

If putting in your own solar system isn't for you, but you would like to contribute in the generation of renewable energy, Jo-Carroll has several options for you. Jo-Carroll provides members the opportunity to purchase subscriptions to panels in our locally-sited community solar array, South View Solar Farm. Members who receive their electricity from Jo-Carroll can purchase subscriptions for solar capacity credits. You then receive a monthly bill credit for your panels' output.

Another way members can support renewable energy is by participating in the Evergreen program. Launched in 1998 by Dairyland Power, members can participate in Evergreen for as little as \$1 per month per 100 kW block of renewable energy.

Together we are working toward a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.



## Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

# Resume of Minutes

January 24, 2018

## For your information

### Your Board of Directors:

**David Senn**

*Chairman*

District 7

**Russell Holesinger**

*Vice Chairman*

District 8

**Marcia Stanger**

*Secretary*

District 3

**Martin Werner**

*Treasurer*

District 1

**Joseph Mattingley**

District 2

**Dan Tindell**

District 4

**Patricia Smith**

District 5

**Thomas Lundy**

District 6

**Larry Carroll**

District 9

**Robert Kuhns**

District 10

**Ronald Hallendorff**

District 10

### Office Hours:

Monday–Friday

**Elizabeth**

793 U.S. Route 20 West

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Savanna**

103 Chicago Ave.

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Geneseo**

1004 S. Chicago St.

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4 p.m.

### Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522

www.jocarroll.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

The board met on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda, as amended, and the Consent Agenda were approved.

**Presentation** – BKD Auditor Mark Prouhet provided the board with an overview of the audit process, noting that they were onsite performing their yearly review. BKD will be available to present the audit at the Board of Directors meeting in March 2018. CFO Woods provided his preliminary reviews of Jo-Carroll Energy's internal controls and provided information on how they are conducted.

Peggy Francomb, Manager of Communications and Marketing provided a preview of the cover theme for the Annual Meeting Booklet. "Connecting with our Communities" will be the cover theme for the 2018 Annual Meeting.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Senn offered his appreciation to retiring CFO Tracy Heidenreich for her 14 years of service to Jo-Carroll Energy. Senn also mentioned the upcoming Dairyland Wholesale Power Contract Symposium scheduled for February 1, 2018.

**AIEC (Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives) and NRECA Report** – Chairman Senn discussed what other cooperatives are doing for their annual meetings in order to encourage more members to participate. Senn would like to see the Member Advisory Council (MAC) promoted more and to increase engagement with the group. Senn also discussed the NRECA's upcoming legislative conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., in April.

**Dairyland Report** – President and CEO Casper discussed the Dairyland Board Report as well as the upcoming Wholesale Power Contract Symposium.

**APGA Report** – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA). The Department of Energy wants to ensure that all policies and procedures are being followed for natural gas infrastructure, and drug and alcohol testing programs. CEO Casper provided some comments on the Pipeline Public Awareness Program, noting a plan has been developed to provide information necessary to ensure that we have followed all policies and procedures that have been put in place. Casper noted the importance of public awareness about natural gas and potential risks.

**PPI Report** – Director Hallendorff reported on Prairie Power Inc. (PPI's) most recent generation figures and provided operational highlights from Prairie State Units 1 and 2.

### Monthly Committee Review

**Policy 114** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy 114 as is, with no changes recommended.

**CEO's Report** – President and CEO Mike Casper provided operational highlights. Casper also discussed total closed work orders for the year and reported on year-end Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reporting numbers.

**a. Financial Operating Report** – Casper reported on the Cooperative's operating margins for the year-to-date. The current equity of the cooperative is approximately 24.35 percent, compared to 23.91 percent at this time last year. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

**b. Technical Presentation** – Casper discussed how Co-ops are deploying and planning solar projects. Casper also reported on the future of "Smart Home"-based technology products and the research happening on current and future IOT (Internet of Things) devices. In the future, Jo-Carroll Energy will seek solutions to provide our Members with the potential ability to be able to receive outage alerts, high usage alerts, and a usage portal, among other capabilities.

**c. Wholesale Power Contract Symposium Precursor** – Casper provided information on the upcoming Dairyland Wholesale Power Contract Symposium scheduled for February 1, 2018. Casper also discussed the financial and operational relationships between distribution co-ops and G & T's, which is unique in the business world.

### Strategic Projects

**a. Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager** – Kyle Buros presented some background on the Alliant Energy acquisition and the transition of that load to Dairyland Power in April.

**b. External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorff, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, provided the board with an overview of matters concerning the State of Illinois and the federal government. President Trump imposed tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Allendorff discussed the potential candidates running for Illinois office. Allendorff also noted that because Illinois continues to have a net out-migration of residents, the state will likely lose 1 congressional district after the 2020 census, with the possibil-

Minutes continued on 20c

# Annual Meeting set for May 23 in Galena

Join us for Jo-Carroll Energy's Annual Meeting of Members on Wednesday, May 23.

We're planning an evening meeting and meal again this year!

This year, we're meeting at the Crossroads Community Church located at 900 Galena Square Drive in Galena.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. for registration, and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. A pork chop sandwich dinner will follow at approximately 7 p.m.

Members at the meeting will be able to visit with other member-owners as well as meet the board of directors and cooperative management. Prior to the meeting, members can visit displays about the cooperative's programs and services.

Those attending will hear from Board Chairman Dave Senn (District 7) and President and CEO Mike Casper. Director election results for those districts with contested elections will be announced. (Districts up for election include 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10.)

Each membership in attendance at the meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit. Make sure to bring the registration card from this year's Annual Report to be entered in additional prize drawings. We are giving away 10 \$25 bill credits, four \$50 bill credits and one home energy audit (\$300 value). You must be present to win.

Additional information about the meeting appears in the 2018 Annual Report to be mailed in April.



## "Director's Scholarships" deadline is May 1

High school seniors still have time to apply for the Jo-Carroll Energy's "Director's Scholarships" that are awarded during the Annual Meeting of Members.

Up to 10 Director's Scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded, one each in the cooperative's 10 director districts.

Current high school seniors whose parents are members of Jo-Carroll Energy, and who have not won another JCE scholarship, are eligible to apply. Application forms are found in the Student Center under the Community tab on our website.

Applicants and at least one of their parents must attend the annual meeting on May 23 where selections will be made by drawings.

### Minutes continued from 20b

ity of losing 2. Allendorf also updated the board on Tri-County Economic Development Alliance's (TCEDA's) recent activities. The TCEDA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 15 and will be held at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa.

#### Board Issues

**a. Discounted Estate Capital Credit Retirements** – Heidenreich presented the most recent discounted estate capital credit retirement requests for the board's consideration. A motion was made, seconded, and carried

unanimously to approve the discounted estate retirements, as presented.

**b. 2018 Reserve Allocation Resolution**

– A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the 2018 Reserve Allocation Resolution.

**c. Deferred Revenue Resolution**

– A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Deferred Revenue Resolution.

**d. Bylaw Amendments**

– No new bylaw amendments were presented to the board for consideration.

**e. Select Attendees for the NRECA Course 2640**

– Attendees were se-

lected for the NRECA Course 2640.

**f. Director Peer Assessment** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to authorize CEO Casper to engage a third party to conduct a Director Peer Assessment.

**g. Per Diem** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to allow for an adjustment to the Director per diem.

**Executive Session** – None.

#### Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

# Don't Waste. Insulate!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort.

R-values measure a material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value rating, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. Below are recommended R-values for areas of the home that should be insulated.

*\*Recommendations on R-values are subject to regional climate conditions.*

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



## TYPES OF INSULATION

-  Batt
-  Foam
-  Blow-in

1

### DUCTWORK

Whether it's made of metal or plastic (PVC), insulated ductwork protects your investment in conditioned air year-round. Minimal R-values of 4.3 are recommended for blanket-style wraps secured with tape. Insulated ductwork rated at R-6 is also available.

2

### EXTERIOR WALLS

There are multiple options for insulating exterior walls. Rock wool or fiberglass batts of R-13 to R-20 value are preferred behind drywall, but each inch of blown-in polyurethane foam insulation provides an R-value of 3.9.

3

### BENEATH LIVING SPACE

Whether your home has a full basement, a crawl space or an attached garage, having an insulation value of R-19 under the living space floor will help increase comfort year-round.

4

### SLAB FOUNDATION

Properly installed foam boards around the exterior edge of the slab of an existing home can reduce heating bills by 10 percent or more.





# Geothermal tax credits are back!

**30% federal tax credit  
for residential installations through the end of 2019.**

Geothermal heat pump tax credits were reinstated by federal legislation passed in February.

Residential consumers are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit for installing a geothermal heat pump system in their home. The reinstated tax credits are retroactive to Jan. 1, 2017.

The tax credits are extended through Jan. 1, 2022, through a phase out plan in which the credit is reduced to 22 percent before ending.

The geothermal tax credit was part of a measure to extend the tax incentives to renewable energy technologies like

geothermal heat pumps, that were taken out of the legislation passed by Congress two years ago, extending the tax credits for the solar industry.

In addition to the residential tax credits, there is also a 10 percent investment tax credit for commercial geothermal systems that was also extended.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association joined with a coalition of many national and state organizations to support reinstatement of the tax credits.

The tax credit extension was part of the Continuing Resolution action by the Congress in early February.

**Save even more with Jo-Carroll Energy incentives!  
visit [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) for details**



# Plan ahead to call before you dig

Spring is in the air and yard projects are on our minds, but before you put a shovel in the ground, make sure you are taking all the steps to be safe. Digging without locating underground utilities, even for the smallest projects, could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock, even death.

There were more than 24,000 home digging incidents involving underground utilities in 2016, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). To help stay safe, make use of the free underground utility locating service by calling 811.

Make sure to plan ahead and call in advance. The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to the locating service serving your area. Tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days

for a professional to come mark the public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities and each color is universal to what utility type is buried.

- **Red** – Electric
- **Orange** – Communications, Telephone/CATV
- **Blue** – Potable Water
- **Green** – Sewer/Drainage
- **Yellow** – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- **Purple** – Reclaimed Water
- **White** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, you should



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

call before every digging project.

Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before you dig.

Keep in mind, 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems or gas piping to a garage.

Once all the underground utilities have been located, you can start your digging project. Be sure to wear the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

## Incentive checks presented



*Jo-Carroll Energy employees John Scott (left) and Ken Sivertsen (right) presented an LED Lighting incentive check to Nick Pribus of Metform, Maclean-Fogg. Metform upgraded their LED Lighting in their Mt. Carroll and M1 buildings.*



*John Scott, Energy Advisor and Ken Sivertsen, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Key Accounts presented an incentive check to Matt Floming and Tom Neumiller at Neumiller farms for energy conservation in the form of LED lighting, insulation and air sealing and natural gas heating.*

GET CONNECTED

With

# CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Jo-Carroll Energy

## JUG'S MAIN STREET TAP

200 North Main Street  
Elizabeth, IL  
815-858-3333

Use your Co-op Connections card when dining at Jug's and receive \$2 off any food or pizza (excluding alcohol.)

Opened in 2009, this family-owned and operated business serves lunch and dinner and offers a variety of homemade dishes and unique beverages.

## GREAT AMERICAN POPCORN COMPANY

110 South Main Street  
Galena, IL  
815-777-4116

Use your Co-op Connections card when you visit Great American Popcorn Company and receive 1 free bag with a purchase of 3 bags.

Opened in 1994, this family-owned and operated business serves over 50 flavors of popcorn in their downtown store.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF DEALS, VISIT [WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP](http://WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP) AND CLICK ON B2B SAVINGS. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE CARD TO RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON PRESCRIPTIONS AS WELL AS DENTAL, VISION AND CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES. FOR PROVIDERS CALL 800-800-7616.



## 'E' stands for energy efficiency

As you celebrate Earth Day on April 22, it's a good reminder that "E" stands for energy efficiency. You can care for our environment and lower your energy bills at the same time.

Remember, the cleanest, greenest energy is the energy we do not use. Jo-Carroll energy encourages you to discover ways that you can become more energy efficient.

A good first step is to contact Jo-Carroll's own energy detective, John Scott. He's the cooperative's energy advisor who can provide you with information you need to take energy efficiency measures at your home or business. He can also conduct a free home energy assessment or, for a reasonable fee, an energy audit.

To help you with your efficiency projects, Jo-Carroll offers energy efficiency incentives. These range from incentives for new appliances to geothermal systems. Click on the "Rebates & Incentives" link on our homepage at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) for all incentive information.

Here are some efficiency actions you can start incorporating into your energy habits this Earth Day:

- Seal air leaks and insulate well.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Lower your water heater temperature. The Department of Energy recommends 120 degrees.
- Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home in cooler months and close to keep the heat out in summer.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Replace light bulbs with LEDS that use at least 75 percent less energy.





# Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 9, 2018



Remember to #ThankALineworker



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative