



# JO-CARROLL

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



## CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

# Invest in thirty days of safety Month

## *September is National Preparedness Month*

Seems like every time we turn on the news, a natural disaster is occurring somewhere in the world. Concern for community is one of seven cooperative principles. So, I challenge you with this question, how prepared are you and your family for disasters or emergencies? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates National Preparedness Month at the time to prompt you to assess and prepare for a number of possible situations: floods, wildfires, severe storms like tornados and hurricanes, and prolonged service outages from natural disasters.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 46 percent of people think a natural disaster is likely to happen within their community. The reality is that most people will experience the impacts of some natural event year to year.

"Understand the most likely natural disasters for your area and take steps in advance to weather them safely," says Molly Hall, director of the Energy Education Council. "Prepare by assembling an emergency kit with essentials. Monitor news and weather for impending events. Be prepared to take cover or evacuate when appropriate. Stay engaged online with related websites and social media pages during a disaster."

Although we do everything possible to safely get service back on for you, be prepared for prolonged loss of power, natural gas or internet service. If you have a portable generator, make sure you know how to use it safely. Place it safely away from the home. Never run a generator inside or near windows.

Floods and power outages can affect local water supplies, so keep at least three days of drinking water in your emergency kit. Your

supplies should also include non-perishable food and any needed openers, a radio or weather radio, and a flashlight with extra batteries. Don't forget first aid, other medical essentials, extra blankets and seasonal items.

Once your kit has been assembled, it's time to create or review your family's emergency communication plan. Know how each of you will stay safe and get in touch if you're not together when disaster strikes. Establish a meeting place if separated during a disaster. Don't forget your furry friends, include measures for pets in your emergency plans.

Keep up to date with current public health and safety emergency plans in your community. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers. Consider getting involved with community programs that help others prepare to stay safe.

"Since natural disasters can quickly and seriously impact quality of life and health, proper planning and preparation is key to staying safe," Hall says. Most important is to take action and follow through with a plan that best suits you and your circumstances.

Additional information is included in last month's Illinois Country Living, this month's and by visiting [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). Be prepared and stay safe!

## 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.

**Our office will be closed  
Monday, September 3rd  
for Labor Day**

# Resume of Minutes

## June 27, 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**  
District 1

**Joseph Mattingley**  
District 2

**Dan Tindell**  
District 4

**Patricia Smith**  
District 5

**Thomas Lundy**  
District 6

**Larry Carroll**  
District 9

**Robert Kuhns**  
*Treasurer*  
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, June 27, 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.

**AIEC (Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives) and NRECA Report** – Chairman Senn discussed the need for cooperatives to adapt to changes in the utility industry in ways that provide value to our members. Senn also provided an update on the AIEC Resolutions Committee.

**American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report** – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA).

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report** – Director Mattingley discussed highlights from the DPC Board Meeting, which included a presentation on wholesale power markets. Mattingley also reported on the wholesale power contract extension.

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

#### Board Policy Update –

**a. Policy 119** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 119 as is.

**Presentation** – A presentation was given by West Carroll Student Emily Hinrichs, who was selected to represent Jo-Carroll Energy on the Youth to Washington Tour. Emily provided a slideshow of photos she took during the trip. Emily also had the chance to meet with Illinois Senator Dick Durbin and Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. Emily thanked the Board of Directors and Jo-Carroll Energy for the opportunity to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour.

#### CEO's Report –

**a. Financial Operating Report** – President and CEO Casper reported that the Cooperative's operating margins for May YTD were \$523,729. The current equity of the cooperative is 25.06 percent. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

#### Operations & Regulatory/Legislative Update –

**a. Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager** – Buros provided an update on the cost of service study, noting that a draft has been completed and a presentation will be made at a future

Board Meeting.

- b. Broadband Update** – Todd Tunks, Manager of Broadband Operations provided a presentation on the connectsp.com website and demonstrated how members sign up to show interest in receiving fiber internet service, as well as how the broadband team uses that information to develop fiber construction projects. Tunks also discussed the application process and provided updates on current projects the Broadband team is working on.
- c. External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, provided the board with an overview of matters concerning the State of Illinois and the federal government, including the Illinois budget and tariffs on agricultural and metal commodities.

#### Board Issues

- a. Discounted Estate Capital Credit Retirements** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the discounted estate retirements as presented.
- b. Administrative Policy No. 7 (Rates)** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the changes made to Administrative Policy 7.
- c. Select Attendees for the Region 5 & 6 Meeting** – Attendees were selected for the Region 5 & 6 Meeting.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into executive session at 10:54 a.m. and to come out of Executive Session at 11:34 a.m.

#### Action Items as a Result of Executive Session

- None

#### Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov



# Evergreen: 20 years of renewable energy for your lifestyle

Setting goals to be powered by 100 percent renewable energy isn't a concept that was recently dreamed up in the conference rooms of Google, Apple or IKEA. Jo-Carroll Energy members have had access to renewable energy since 1998 through the Evergreen program.

Evergreen was developed by Dairyland Power Cooperative to provide members an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the increased use of renewable energy sources without the financial burden of installing their own larger system. Starting at \$1 per month, a member is assigned one Evergreen block of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean, renewable energy. Evergreen will appear as a line item on the participating member's monthly electric bill.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Evergreen, Jo-Carroll Energy members have opportunities to participate in ways that fit their lifestyle or budget.

- **Evergreen Everyone:** Members can support renewable energy in increments of 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks for just \$1 per block per month (\$0.01 per kWh).
- **Evergreen Everything:** Being 100 percent powered by renewable energy isn't just for large corporations. Through Evergreen Everything, members can choose to have 100 percent of their electricity use generated by renewable energy for \$1 per 100 kWh block. The average cooperative home uses around 1,000 kWh per month, which equals \$10 per month to be a green home.

"We understand purchasing a private system – whether a wind turbine or solar array – is not feasible for all members due to

financial or location constraints," Jennifer Meyer said. "For example, a member may have trees that shade their home during the summer – which is a great energy efficiency strategy – and that means rooftop solar is not a viable option. With Evergreen, members still have the opportunity to support renewable energy and enjoy their landscaping."

Each Evergreen block is tracked monthly and reinforces that Evergreen is for all members who want to do more to increase the use of renewable energy sources. Evergreen subscriptions are in addition to any federal or state required renewable portfolio standards. Currently, renewable energy

makes up 18 percent of Dairyland Power Cooperative's generation portfolio, which includes solar, wind, hydro and biogas. Dairyland is one of Jo-Carroll Energy's wholesale power providers. (The Evergreen program is not available to members in the Geneseo area where our power supplier is Prairie Power, Inc.)

Jo-Carroll Energy also encourages members to consider participation in the South View Farm community solar farm, a local source of renewable energy available to electric members.

For more information about participating in Evergreen or South View Solar call 800-858-5522 or email [info@jocarroll.com](mailto:info@jocarroll.com).





# Teaching youngsters the important lesson of energy efficiency

**E**lectronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. With lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

## *The why*

Before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, “What’s in it for me?” As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child – otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that’s something children can relate to!).

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

## *Learning by doing*

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is



fully charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn’t have to be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- \* Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- \* Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- \* If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

## *Rewards*

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. For parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.

## Sand Prairie is looking for the next fiber neighborhood

This summer, the village of Elizabeth became the first Sand Prairie fiber connected community in Jo-Carroll Energy's service territory, and now we're looking for the next neighborhood for fiber internet.

### Fiber construction update

Installations continue in all fiber neighborhoods – or polygons – in Elizabeth, as well as in the original fiber pilot area in the downtown Galena area. Members who live in these fiber neighborhoods who have not had the chance to sign up are encouraged to call us at 800-858-5522 or go online at [connectSP.com](http://connectSP.com):

#### Elizabeth – E1, E2, E3, E4 | Galena – G0

Preconstruction activities are underway in one Apple Canyon Lake fiber neighborhood. Construction in **Apple Canyon Lake – AC6** is expected to be scheduled in spring 2019. Anyone in this neighborhood who has not signed up is encouraged to do so.

Galena has an additional neighborhood, **G8**, in the sign-up stage along with The Galena Territory polygon **GT10**.

Polygons have been identified for Mount Carroll and Savanna. These are all in the “interest” stage.

If you don't see your neighborhood mentioned above, don't worry, just visit [connectSP.com/iwantfiber](http://connectSP.com/iwantfiber) to express your interest.

### Fiber benefits

- 1 **Faster speeds to stream video, share photos, upload documents**
- 2 **More reliability and fewer interruptions with a consistent true speed**
- 3 **Multiple users, multiple devices connected at once**
- 4 **Unlimited data**
- 5 **No contracts**

*Sand Prairie is the cooperative's broadband division that is working to bring high speed, reliable fiber internet to members.*

GET CONNECTED

With

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Jo-Carroll Energy

### FEVER RIVER OUTFITTERS

525 S. Main Street  
Galena, IL  
815-776-9425

Use your Co-op Connections card at Fever River Outfitters in Galena and receive 10% off rentals (Sun-Fri) or retail in store or online.

### HELLMAN GUESTHOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

318 Hill Street  
Galena, IL  
815-777-3638

Use your Co-op Connections card when you stay at Hellman Guesthouse Bed & Breakfast in Galena and receive \$10 off weekend room rates (Fri- Sat), Two night stay required July-Oct.

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 888-888-7616.



# September is National Preparedness Month

**H**ow prepared are you and your family for disasters or emergencies? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates National Preparedness Month at the time to assess and prepare for a number of possible situations: floods, wildfires, severe storms like tornados and hurricanes, and prolonged power outages from natural disasters.

Three key things you should do to prepare are get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about different types of emergencies.

FEMA suggests everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to last for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Following is a list of some basic items that every emergency kit should include.

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

Additional items to consider adding to an emergency supply kit include:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part

bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.

- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children





# 2018 Coloring Contest winners

Three children from Jo-Carroll Energy's service territory were selected as the winners of the 2018 Jo-Carroll Energy Coloring Contest.

Artists Tristan Schoenhaar, 6, of Savanna; Emma Ehrler, 8, of Galena; and Paige Emerson, 9, of Fulton were named winners.

Each of the students received a set of school supplies for the fall. Jo-Carroll Energy partnered with area libraries within the service territory to promote the coloring contest. In appreciation, the co-op donated five energy related children's books to the libraries in the winners' hometowns.

For more information about Jo-Carroll Energy's youth programs, visit [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).



Paige Emerson, 9, of Fulton



Emma Ehrler, 8, of Galena



Tristan Schoenhaar, 6, of Savanna



## Efficiency incentives program

Planning a fall fix up project?

Save energy and money when you include an efficiency project in your plans.

Save even more with Jo-Carroll Energy's Energy Efficiency Incentives.

*That's good news for your budget!*



### ► Electric Appliances & Lighting

Incentives of **\$25** per appliance are available for EnergyStar rated clothes dryers, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers and refrigerator (≥10 cubic ft). Incentive of **\$50** for heat pump clothes dryer.

**Recycling Incentive** of **\$25** per appliance for freezers, refrigerators and window air conditioners (appliances must be in working condition).

### ► Lighting

Incentives available for occupancy sensors, LED lamps, LED fixtures and LED exit signs. For LED bulbs, a minimum of 5 must be submitted to qualify.



### ► Electric Water Heaters & Flow Restrictors

Incentives of **\$125** for residential high efficiency water heaters 75-99 gal. and \$200 for residential high efficiency water heaters ≥100 gal.

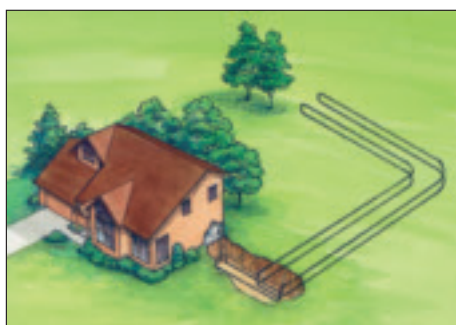
### ► Electric HVAC Geothermal

Incentives of **\$300/ton** are available for upgrading existing indoor geothermal equipment and **\$700/ton** for new geothermal heat pump installations.

### ► Insulation & Air-Sealing

Incentives for existing homes are available. These include:

- **\$300** for a Home Energy Audit completed by a JCE representative
- Up to **\$200** for Home Insulation
- Up to **\$200** for Home Air Sealing



Incentives also available for electric compressed air audits, Touchstone Energy Home Program and for our natural gas and electric ag, commercial and industrial members.

*Complete incentive details, requirements and forms available at:*

***jocarroll.com***

***Incentives are in place Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2018. Incentives are issued in the form of bill credits.***