

JO-CARROLL

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



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

The Significance of Advanced Meter Technology

October is a big month. Not only is it National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, it is Co-op Month and Public Natural Gas Week, October 7-13. Themes are important to remind us to be aware and also appreciate what we have. Over the year, I have focused on what your co-op is doing for safety, the environment, our communities, youth and advancements in technology. This month I'd like to discuss a technology that is sometimes misunderstood.

Efforts to modernize the power grid and our natural gas distribution system require using advanced meters. Like a traditional meter, they collect your electricity and natural gas usage. But, an advanced meter can be read instantly and remotely by Jo-Carroll or you. Advanced meters reduce the need for estimated bills, which means consumers know precisely the usage and cost of their usage month to month.

Currently, most of Jo-Carroll's advanced meters collect daily reads. Advanced meters can record energy usage in real-time, so eventually you will be able to see hour to hour what your home and appliances are using. You will also be able to see when your usage goes up, hits its highest usage level and goes down, not only day to day but by season and time of year. This technology will help you cut down on your energy costs as you will have more information allowing you to monitor your energy use more closely.

Advanced meters can also play a big role

in improving power outage detection and notification. Advanced meters are capable of electronically reporting the location of outages, in some cases, before you ever have to pick up a phone. This aids in restoring service more promptly and makes status notification to you more efficient and easier.

Despite the many benefits, there have been myths that unnecessarily concern consumers. We take safety of our co-workers and you, our members, very seriously. Communication design follows the guidelines set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and radio wave exposure is far less than a baby monitor.

Another concern is data being used to violate privacy. Advanced meters assist with accurate billing, improve response to outages and help diagnose power quality issues. They do not store any personal identifying information that would violate privacy.

Peggy Speer
Jo-Carroll Energy completed a project in 2016 that replaced aging infrastructure with advanced electric meters. The meters help reduce meter reading and maintenance costs, enhance outage management, improve reliability and provide more detailed information on energy use. We continue to refine and upgrade the system to optimize the equipment and use of the data while maintaining your privacy expectations. For more information on advanced meters, please call us at 800-858-5522.

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.

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

Resume of Minutes

July 31, 2018

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Chairman's Report – Director Senn commented on the AIEC Annual Meeting. Senn also discussed the importance of safety and how we could implement safety discussions into board meetings.

AIEC (Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives) and NRECA Report – Chairman Senn reported on the AIEC Annual Meeting. Broadband and Fiber were the main topics. It was noted that 39 percent of rural Americans are without any type of broadband.

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

Dairyland Power Report – Director Mattingley discussed highlights from the DPC Board Meeting. Mike Casper, has been appointed to the DPC Wholesale Rate Taskforce. Mattingley also stressed the importance of DPC maintaining its "A" investment rating.

PPI Report – No July Meeting.
Board Policy 120 – No changes.

CEO's Report – President and CEO Casper reported that the Cooperative's operating margins for June YTD were \$318,541, which is \$1,003,377 under the budget of \$1,321,918. The current equity of the cooperative is 24.65 percent. CFO Woods noted that operating revenue continues to be lower than budgeted. Casper also discussed the Dairyland Level 2 EV charging pilot program and provided product and installation information.

Operations & Regulatory/Legislative 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, as well as Northwest Illinois Economic Development (formerly TCEDA).

Board Issues – Discounted estate retirements were approved as presented.

Action Items as a Result of Executive Session – None

Adjournment –

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Jo-Carroll Energy plans open board meeting

The Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors will hold an open board meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24 in the board room at the cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters.

This is the regular October meeting of the board. Members may speak during the "Member Comment" period or if requested by the board chair.

Members are encouraged to speak on issues raised by the agenda, however they are free to comment on any subject.



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Local agencies announce assistance programs

Agencies in Northwestern Illinois have announced the 2019 LIHEAP Program

The agencies receive funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to assist residents of the counties they serve with home heating utility costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Payment Plan.

In October, income eligible seniors (age 60 and older) and people receiving Social Security disability benefits are able to schedule appointments to apply for assistance. In November, income eligible households without home energy service (are disconnected from their primary and/or secondary heating utility) as well as income eligible seniors, people receiving disability benefits and families with children age 5 and under may call to schedule an appointment to apply. In December, all other low-income eligible

households may apply.

Eligible households in Jo Daviess County may call 800-883-1111 or 815-232-3141 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance at one of the following locations:

- NICAA Main Office – Freeport
- Stockton Banking Center
- Warren Township Library
- Hanover Village Hall
- Citizens State Bank of Lena
- East Dubuque Library
- Illinois Bank & Trust – Galena Downtown

For information on assistance available in Carroll and Whiteside counties, contact the Tri-County Opportunities Council at 800-323-5434.

In Henry County, contact Project Now at 309-852-4565.

Income Eligibility Requirements		
Family Size	150% 30 Day Income*	150% Annual Income
1	\$1,518	\$18,210
2	\$2,058	\$24,690
3	\$2,598	\$31,170
4	\$3,138	\$37,650
5	\$3,678	\$44,130
6	\$4,218	\$50,610

*Figures based on 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines.



In our September issue of the ICL, we featured the 2018 Coloring Contest winners. The article inadvertently switched the girls names. Pictured above are Emma Ehrler (right) of Galena is the winner and recipient of school supplies along with Paige Emerson (left) of Fulton. The winners are pictured with Jamie Kluzek, JCE digital media coordinator.

WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community?
Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com/enter between 10/1/18
and 11/4/18 and submit a photo of your nominee.
Then tell us why that person inspires you and how
they make a difference in your co-op community.



\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000
SECOND PLACE

\$1,500
THIRD PLACE

\$500
HONORABLE MENTION

TOGETHER, LET'S
CELEBRATE THE
POWER OF HUMAN
CONNECTIONS

As the national network of more than 730 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities.

That's why we are launching a contest to honor inspirational community members across the country.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2018. Winners will be announced December 2018. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

VISIT WHOPOWERSYOU.COM FOR FULL CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Inc., 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. ©2018.

Sand Prairie fiber construction continues

Construction of the Sand Prairie fiber infrastructure continues with crews currently working on stringing main-line fiber in support of the fiber build-out projects.

Get service now

Fiber internet service is currently available throughout the village of Elizabeth as well as the original fiber pilot project in the downtown Galena area. This includes the fiber neighborhoods in Elizabeth - ELZ 1-4 and in Galena - G0 and G8.

Sign up is available in Apple Canyon - CYN6 and The Galena Territory - GT10.

If you don't live in one of these areas, be sure to visit connectSP.com and complete the short form to tell us you're interested in fiber internet service. Check the Fiber Communities page on connectSP.com to watch our progress!



Cybersecurity Month

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the STOP.THINK.CONNECT.TM campaign, the message highlighted during National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Observed every October, NCSAM is a collaboration between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online.

Co-ops remain cyber aware by taking a number of preparations, including:

- Implementing rigorous security standards and technology to protect systems,
- Forging close partnerships to protect our systems, and
- Engaging in active information sharing about threats and vulnerabilities.

Jo-Carroll Energy and Sand Prairie invite members to join in raising cybersecurity awareness. Use and follow #cyberaware on social media to show and share your support.

The NCSAM 2018 themes focus

on consumers and their needs regarding cybersecurity and safety. The themes include:

- *Week 1 – Oct. 1-5 – Make Your Home a Haven for Online Safety*
Week 1 will underscore basic cybersecurity essentials the entire family can deploy to protect their homes against cyber threats.
- *Week 2 – Oct. 8-12 – Millions of Rewarding Jobs: Educating for a Career in Cybersecurity*
Week 2 will address ways to motivate parents, teachers and counselors to learn more about the field and how to best inspire students and others to seek highly fulfilling cybersecurity careers.
- *Week 3 – Oct. 15- 19 – It's Everyone's Job to Ensure Online Safety at Work*
Week 3 will focus on cybersecurity workforce education, training and awareness while emphasizing risk management, resistance and resilience. NCSA's CyberSecure My Business™ will shed light on how small and medium-sized businesses can protect themselves, their employees and their customers against the most prevalent threats.
- *Week 4 – Oct. 22-25 – Safeguarding the Nation's Critical Infrastructure*
Week 4 will emphasize the importance of securing our critical infrastructure and highlight the roles the public can play in keeping it safe. In addition, it will lead the transition into November's Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month, which is spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



National Cybersecurity
Awareness Month



CyberAware

Celebrate National Co-op Connections Day

October is National Cooperative Month and Jo-Carroll Energy is excited to celebrate the cooperative difference by offering its member-owners even more savings. National Co-op Connections day will be held on Friday, Oct. 5, and is sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. This year, members can “Go Beyond the Card” to save in their communities, while on the go and online.

JCE invites program participants to use the “Power of Three” to save money on the third-annual National Co-op Connections Day. Cooperative employees and member-owners can use the card, website, or app to find deals and coupons at national and local retailers.

To add even more excitement, Touchstone Energy is bringing back the #ImConnected social media photo contest. Members are eligible to win prizes

when they share a photo on Facebook that features them using any of the three ways to save on or before Sunday, Oct. 7 and using the hashtag #ImConnected.

All members are encouraged to get involved and visit their favorite participating Co-op Connections business on Oct. 5. If you need a new card, print one from connections.coop or contact us at 800-858-5522 or communications@jocarroll.com. Or you can simply download the free Co-op Connections app for Apple or Android devices and start saving!

If you are a local business wishing to be part of the Co-op Connections Program, you can join at no cost to you. Just contact Jamie Kluzek at jkluzek@jocarroll.com or call 800-858-5522, ext. 1208 to sign up. For more information on National Co-op Connections Day, visit jocarroll.com.

National Co-op Connections

Celebrate on *October 5th*



Power of 3

Use the app, website or Co-op Connections Card to save



Go Beyond the www.connections.com.

Join us at the polls on November 6

By Dan Riedinger

Our co-op's number one priority is providing our consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But doing this job requires more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's essential to serving you, our consumer-members.

That's why we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.

Co-ops Vote encourages all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.

Through this program, electric co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national discussion—and are supported by our elected officials. But Co-ops Vote isn't just for co-ops. It's for co-op members just like you.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on November 6. If you're interested in getting more involved, just give us a call or visit www.vote.coop.

coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day!

Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the NRECA, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

- ✓ STOP AT THE BANK
- ✓ GRAB THE GROCERIES
- ✓ FIND MY POLLING PLACE
- ✓ REMEMBER TO VOTE



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018

A Full House of Energy Savings

ATTIC

In many homes, attic insulation is one of the easiest, least expensive and most effective ways to reduce your energy use. Contact us to find out how much insulation is right for your home. In colder regions, a properly insulated attic also reduces the chance of ice dams.

DEN/OFFICE

Plug all electronic gadgets such as phone and laptop chargers, printers, gaming consoles and BluRay players into a power strip with an on/off switch. When not in use, turn the power strip off to eliminate all those energy vampires.



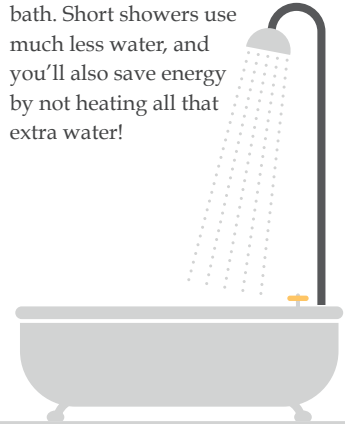
BEDROOM

Ceiling fans can help save energy all year long! In the summer, fans should rotate counter clockwise to push air down creating a cooling flow. In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise to help draw cool air up toward the ceiling and push the warm air that naturally rises down to you and your family.



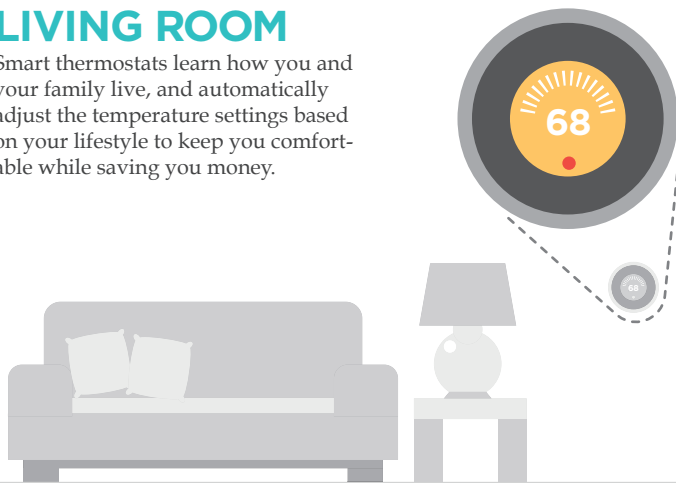
BATHROOM

Take a short shower instead of a bath. Short showers use much less water, and you'll also save energy by not heating all that extra water!



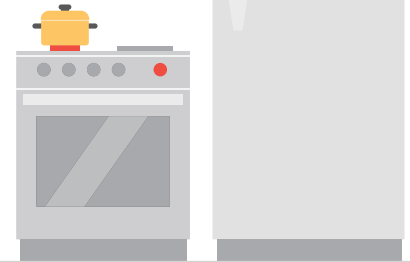
LIVING ROOM

Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.



KITCHEN

Make sure your burner isn't bigger than the pan, and use flat-bottomed pans to maximize surface contact with the burner. Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.



***Want to learn about additional ways to save energy?
Contact us for more energy efficiency tips!***



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES