

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

MAY 2019 | Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

CONTENTS | Elizabeth, Illinois | 800-858-5522 | www.jocarroll.com



20C Annual meeting

JCE will celebrate 80 years of service



20G Electric Cooperative Lobby Day

JCE directors, managers and staff visit the Illinois State Capitol

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

The Power of Generations

Eight decades of serving you, our member-owners, is a special milestone. This year's annual meeting theme "The Power of Generations" has a special meaning. Past generations of rural Americans realized the importance of innovation to work smarter. Rural farmers and businesses got together to form an electric cooperative to help grow our rural areas as we know them today. Now highspeed broadband service will continue to expand the possibilities of our rural communities for our next generations.

Developing and preparing our youth and rural communities now for decades out is critical to the success of northwestern Illinois and rural areas across the nation. Rural areas currently export more 20-year-olds than they are attracting. We need to work to retain, bring back and bring in new talent to our area. Most young people aren't looking to relocate because of the job, but for quality of life. More jobs can now be performed remotely. If we provide the infrastructure (i.e., fiber) for them to work remotely and attractions in our area, they will stay or return.

To help develop our local youth, Jo-Carroll Energy offers several programs to students throughout our service area to support

CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

tomorrow's leaders. We are committed to support education and area youth in a variety of ways.

Each year, high school seniors, whose parent or guardian is a Jo-Carroll member, are invited to apply for one of 20 Jo-Carroll Energy scholarships. Students who receive scholarships must be the son or daughter of a Jo-Carroll Energy member. Scholarships are available for four-year, two-year/technical schools and line worker school. We will be announcing the recipients of many of our scholarships in the next month.

To encourage participation at the annual meeting, 10 of the 20 scholarships are "Director's Scholarships" in the amount of \$500 each. Applicants must be present with a parent or legal guardian that is a member of Jo-Carroll Energy. Please note that all funding for Jo-Carroll Energy scholarships comes from unclaimed capital credits and those donated by estates.

Each year, we also select two high school students to represent the co-op as delegates to the Youth to Washington Tour, an

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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

February 27, 2019

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Ill. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Bob Kuhns.

Presentations – Results from the member satisfaction survey were provided by Keith Kaderly, Inside Information, Inc. In addition, Dan Marcure, director of network technology discussed cybersecurity and cybersecurity protection at the cooperative.

Directors Conference – Director Tindell provided insights gained from the Directors Conference.

Chairman's/AIEC Report – Director Senn discussed the Clean Power Plan and Governor Pritzker's stance on the issue. Senn also discussed trends in fuel diversification and provided some highlights from the AIEC meeting he recently attended.

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 Dairyland Report.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided an electric generation summary from the January PPI board meeting which included the financials and a Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) energy market volatility report.

Board Policy 127.1 – A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Board Policy 127.1 "Sale of Real Property."

Governance Overview Topic – Director Tindell presented a governance video from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on the topic of Grassroots.

CEO's Report – President and CEO Mike Casper informed the board of the next Member Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting, scheduled for March 15, 2019. Casper also noted that the theme for the Annual Meeting booklet will be emailed to the directors.

Financial Operating Report – CFO Woods noted that the cooperative's operating margins for January were approximately \$1.3 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$1 million. The current equity of the cooperative is 23.5 percent compared to 24.8 percent this month last year. Woods has reviewed the draft audit that will be presented from the auditor at the March board meeting. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

External Relations Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed the closing of the Honeywell plant located in Galena, Ill. Allendorf also updated the board with the date for the Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) Annual Meeting. Allendorf also provided the board with an update on energy issues in Illinois, including Exelon's attempt to receive further state subsidies for its nuclear plants with the threat of possible plant closures.

Board Issues and Action Items –

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Discounted Estate Capital Credit Retirements.

Attendees for the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Forum (July 1-3) were selected.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Deferred Revenue Resolution that repeals and replaces a 1/24/18 Resolution.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to add language to the natural gas and electric rate tariffs, that the new rates will be applied to billing cycles from April 7 on.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to amend the October 2018 Minutes and Minutes

The Power of Generations

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all-expenses-paid week in our nation's capital. This tour allows high school students an opportunity to get a closer look at their federal government. They join more than 60 other students from across Illinois for this experience. The program rewards students for academic achievement and community leadership, while

educating them about the democratic form of government and the role of electric co-ops in the national economy. While experiencing the wonder of our nation's capital, the trip fosters leadership skills that students are able to take home in hopes that they too can make a difference in their communities. **Robert Amodeo**

Mark your calendar for the 2019 annual meeting

Co-op celebrates 80 years of service

Join us when we celebrate The Power of Generations at the 80th Annual Meeting of members on June 12 at West Carroll Middle School in Mount Carroll.

Plan to arrive early to view co-op exhibits and talk with your directors and co-op employees before the meeting and dinner. And, remember – every member that attends receives one \$10 bill credit per membership.

Schedule

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with member registration from 5 to 6 p.m. Exhibits and displays will be set up in the school foyer where you can learn more about safety, member services, renewable energy and energy efficiency. We'll have a special display celebrating the 10th anniversary of our broadband division and Sand Prairie internet!

Be sure to bring the registration card from the annual report (to be mailed in May). This card will be used to enter members into a drawing in which we're giving away 10 \$25 bill credits, four \$50 bill credits and a free home energy audit (\$300 value). Members must be present to win.

Applicants for the Director's Scholarship and their parents are asked to be sure to sign in at the registration table as they must be present at the meeting for the drawing of scholarships.

The business meeting opens at 6 p.m. You'll hear from board chairman David Senn and our president and CEO Mike Casper. The meeting closes with the drawings for door prizes and the Director's Scholarships.

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. following the meeting and will feature pork chop sandwiches.

Elections

Directors in districts 1, 2 and 4 are up for

election this year. The closing date for petitions was April 12 (after press time for this issue). If your district has an election, you will receive ballot and candidate information. This year, the cooperative is using a hybrid voting method that will allow members to either vote by mail or online. Jo-Carroll Energy is working with Survey & Ballot Systems to conduct the election.

Ballots and voting instructions, including information about the new online option, will be mailed to each member residing in a district where there are two or more candidates. The vote can be done either by the paper ballot or online; only one vote per membership counts. Ballot packets and information will be sent to members in early May. The special election website will also open in early May, if there is a contested election.

If voting by paper ballot, members will complete their vote as usual. Completed ballots will be returned in the provided envelope to SBS, who will deliver the ballots to Jo-Carroll headquarters the day prior to the annual meeting.

If voting online, members will be able to access the voting portal through a website using a unique ballot ID and election passcode.

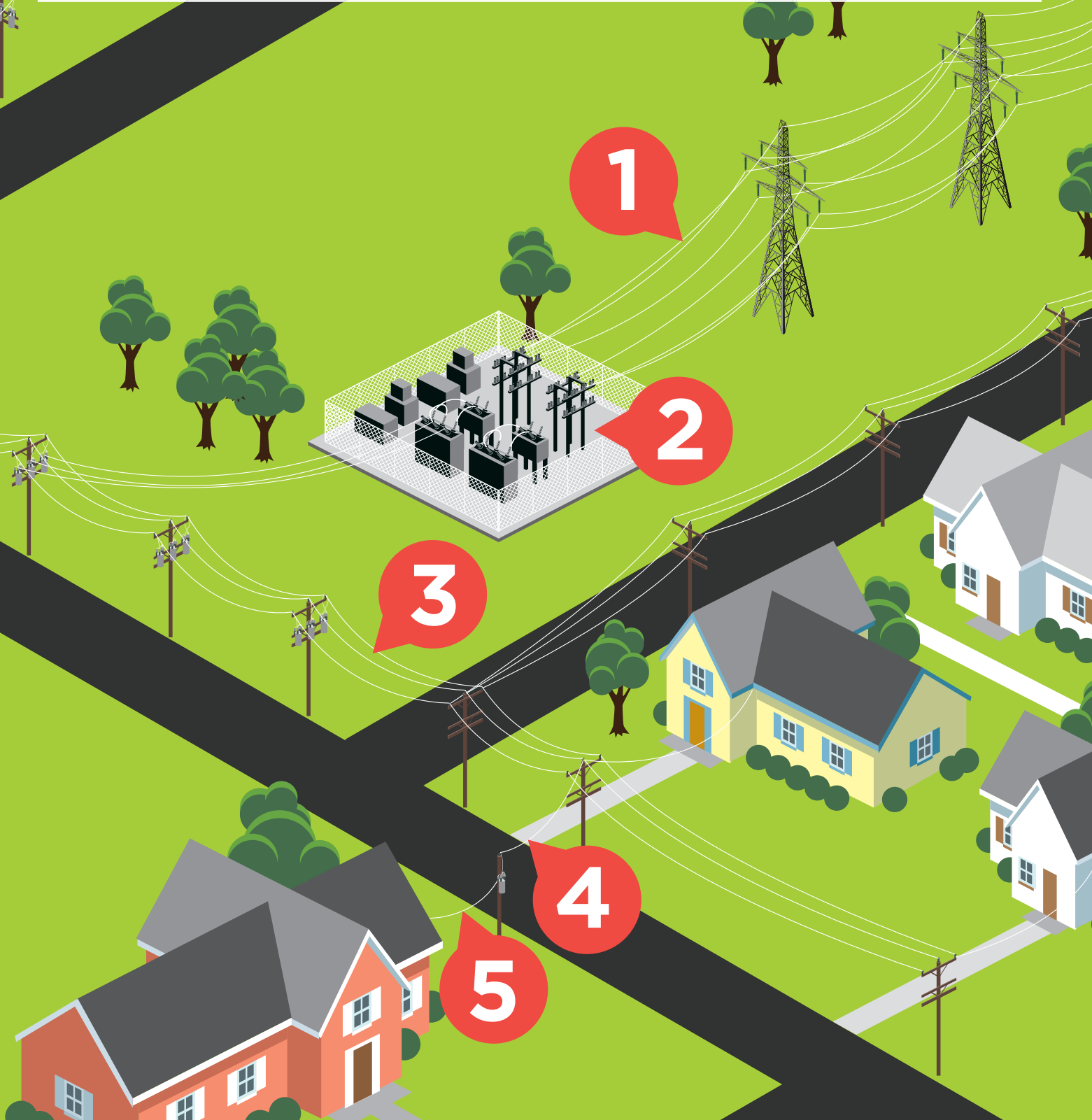
If only one candidate files in a district, election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting. Ballots are not mailed.



Power of Generations

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark:





1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Service Lines:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please give us a call so we can isolate the issue.

Safety starts with you

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

By Derrill Holly, NRECA

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Jo-Carroll Energy, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground fault circuit interrupters: Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or damaged outlets or switches: Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge protectors: Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Some surge protectors include indicator lights



that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension cords: If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to electricity, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Budget billing accounts recalculate in May

Members with budget billing for their electric and natural gas accounts will have their budget amounts recalculated in May.

Because your budget amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or debits accrued, this May true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease, depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to look at your May statement to see if your budget amount has changed. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will appear on your statement in blue

indicating the new budget amount. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained the same. If you have more than one billing account on budget, it is possible that one or both amounts may change. You begin paying the new budget amount in June.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing, your budget bill account or levelized billing, please contact the Member Services Department at 800-858-5522. You can find more information about budget billing on our website at www.jocarroll.com.



Co-op employees visited Springfield in March for the Electric Cooperative Lobby day. Pictured are, from left, Robert Kuhns, JCE board director; Chris Allendorf, JCE general counsel and vice president of external relations; Mike Casper, president and CEO; State Sen. Brian Stewart; State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport; David Senn, JCE board chairman; Kenric Scheevel, Dairyland Power Cooperative; Jennifer Meyer, JCE vice president of member services; and Jesse Shekleton, JCE director of engineering.

Electric Cooperative Lobby Day held in March

Ninety Illinois electric cooperative directors, managers and staff visited the Illinois State Capitol on Wednesday, March 20 to fly the co-op flag and build important relationships with their local legislators.

Representing Jo-Carroll Energy at Electric Cooperative Lobby Day were board members David Senn and Robert Kuhns and co-op employees Mike Casper, Chris Allendorf, Jennifer Meyer and Jesse Shekleton.

They spoke with state senators and representatives whose districts include their co-op territory

regarding issues of importance to electric cooperative members.

They discussed various pieces of legislation currently being debated in Springfield, sharing how those proposals could impact cooperatives and their members. This included the various energy proposals that have been filed, Senate Bill 1304/House Bill 1633 which would expand criminal penalties for damage to critical infrastructure facilities and Senate Bill 1304/House Bill 2839 on administrative decision review.

Jo-Carroll receives Collaborator Award



Jo-Carroll Energy was the recipient of the 2019 Business Collaboration award at the annual meeting of NW Illinois Economic Development. The award was presented to Mike Casper, president and CEO, by NWILED board member Mike Dittmar. In presenting the award, Dittmar noted the cooperative supports youth and communities through scholarships and other programs. He also noted that JCE founded NWILED 10 years ago, seeding and providing financial support for ongoing economic development.



Imagine what
you can do ...



Sand Prairie
Connecting our members to the world.



New areas added to Fiber Communities map

Thanks to member interest, Sand Prairie fiber internet is within reach of many areas across our service territory. Construction is underway in one area and new neighborhoods are on the map.

Under construction!

In mid-April, construction began on the Sand Prairie project in the CYN6 neighborhood at [Apple Canyon Lake](#).

Contractors for the cooperative were busy doing underground construction work that includes drilling under roadways, ditches, waterways and drives. The contractor will also construct the main line fiber and drops to homes. Sand Prairie technicians will coordinate with property owners to install the fiber enclosure on homes, and installations to homes will then begin.

All other fiber neighborhoods at Apple Canyon Lake are in the interest phase for fiber.

Preconstruction

Preconstruction work is ongoing at [The Galena Territory](#) in the GT10 neighborhood. Construction is expected in the spring/summer of 2019; a construction timeline has not yet been released.

Sign up in the GT5 and GT6 neighborhoods continues. All other Territory neighborhoods are at the interest stage.

New neighborhoods

If you haven't visited the Fiber Communities page on [connectSP.com](#) recently, check out the recently added rural fiber neighborhoods: [High Ridge](#), [Menominee](#) and [Chestnut](#).

Due to strong member interest and support, both [Chestnut 1](#) and [High Ridge \(G17\)](#) moved to the preconstruction phase this spring. Sign ups continue in these areas, and construction is expected Fall 2019. The [Menominee](#) neighborhood is at the interest stage.

Substantial interest has been shown in [East Dubuque](#) recently, and that community now has polygons on the map as well. ED1 was placed in sign up in April. The other 9 neighborhoods are at interest stage.

Other communities

Elizabeth

6 fiber neighborhoods

- ELZ1-5 - Complete, fiber available
- ELZ6 (New!) - Interest

Savanna

10 fiber neighborhoods

- All polygons at interest

Mount Carroll

8 fiber neighborhoods

- All polygons at interest

Grant activity

Sand Prairie is applying for funding through the USDA's ReConnect Program. As part of the application for 18 proposed service areas, the co-op is asking farms and rural businesses in these areas to complete Broadband Pre-subscription forms. Details and maps are available at JCE offices and at [connectSP.com](#) and [jocarroll.com](#)

Forms are available at JCE offices in Elizabeth and Savanna as well as the Farm Bureau and FSA offices in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties, and can be downloaded from Sand Prairie and JCE websites.

Sand Prairie has reapplied for a Community Connect grants for areas of the Territory.

