

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

JULY 2019 | 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](http://www.jocarroll.com)



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## Creating community

Thank you to those who attended this year's annual meeting. Working together to continue to grow our rural communities will position our next generations for a bright future.

Although our service territory is easily drawn on a map, I've come to realize that our energy and broadband cooperative is much more than a set of boundary lines. It's a community.

In a community, neighbors watch out for neighbors, families take care of families, and we all work together toward the common good. That's not so different from your cooperative. We are community-focused, and our goal is to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe energy and internet service to the people who count on us.

Jo-Carroll Energy isn't a traditional for-profit company. Your cooperative was built by the communities we serve, and we continue to be led by you, our member-owners. Even when we work together with other cooperatives around the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, we always have an eye on our community at home, working hard to make sure these new solutions work for the local community we represent.

To me, the power of a community comes from the people who live here. People who love where



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

they are and love being together. I know that all of us at Jo-Carroll Energy are glad to be a part of your community, doing our part to help it thrive: from securing and delivering 24/7 energy sources to building fiber internet communities and more.

Reflecting on this year's annual meeting theme "The Power of Generations," we've grown to serve you and your neighbors by working together and along the way have created a community. For that opportunity, and so many others, I am truly grateful.

### 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.

## 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

April 24, 2019

*The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 9 a.m.*

**A Safety Moment was provided by Director Pat Smith.**

**Chairman's/AIEC Report** – Director Senn noted that we are preparing for the Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting.

**APGA Report** – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA). Chris Allendorf will be setting up meetings for Carroll, Casper, and other APGA representatives with federal legislators for the upcoming APGA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report** – Director Tindell provided highlights from the Dairyland Report and commented on restoration efforts in Wisconsin and Minnesota after winter/spring storm "Wesley". Tindell noted that fuel deliveries have been disrupted because of flooding along the Mississippi.

**Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report** – President and CEO Casper provided the PPI generation reports and highlights from the PPI board meeting he recently attended.

**Executive Committee Report** – Director Senn provided a list of items that were reviewed and discussed during the Executive Committee Meeting.

**Policy 125 (Employee Assistance Program)** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy 125 as amended.

**Governance Overview Topic** – Director Holesinger defined the relationship between the Board of Directors and the Cooperative's Attorney and described their respective roles.

**CEO's Report** – CFO Woods presented a review of the financial statement, discussed operating revenue and total operations and maintenance.

**Financial Operating Report** – YTD margins for March were approximately \$3.5 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$2.7 million. The current equity of the cooperative is 24.98 percent compared to 24.67 percent this month last year. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

**Strategic Objectives** – Kyle Buros, Senior VP and Assistant General Manager

noted that staff is looking to improve the distributed generation application process for both the cooperative and members. Buros commented on key performance indicators like efficiency, asset optimization, value, and growth. Buros also provided an update on fiber and the ReConnect grant application through the USDA.

**External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed current legislative issues. Allendorf provided an update on the activities of Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED). The Build-It-Grow-It program is currently taking place in Stockton. NWILED is working with realtors on potential development of the Galena Honeywell production facility.

### Board Issues and Action Items –

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

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the 2018 Margin Allocations.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 902 - Large Load Delivery and Service Rate - as amended.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a Bluestem Energy Solutions Power Purchase Agreement for up to 9-MW of solar power.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:56 a.m. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:36 a.m.

**Action Items as a Result of Executive Session** - A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute necessary documents and agreements for the sale of certain transmission assets owned by the cooperative as a result of the 2007 Alliant acquisition. Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.



From left, Bill Bingham, interim coordinator; Linda Winter, board president; JCE president & CEO Mike Casper; Aishah Abdul-Aziz; Andrew Teply; and Terry Kieffer.



Rex Kreuder, assistant fire chief, accepts the grant from JCE president & CEO Mike Casper.



Accepting the grant from JCE president & CEO Mike Casper are Roberta Sikkema, director; Donna Diephus, landscaping committee; Jan Bristol, director and grants committee chair; and Vicky Trager, treasurer.

## Local agencies receive GoBank, JCE grants

Jo-Carroll Energy designated three community groups as recipients of a matching grant opportunity through the CoBank Sharing Success program in 2019.

Based in Denver, Colo., CoBank is a cooperative bank that serves rural infrastructure providers. The Sharing Success program is designed to celebrate the vital role that their customers, including co-ops like Jo-Carroll Energy, play in their communities. CoBank partners with those customers to support causes and organizations, make a positive impact and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

Selected to receive Sharing Success matching grants in the Jo-Carroll service area were:

**Savanna Fire Department** - \$2,700 (\$1,350 from each) for a Blitzfire monitor, a portable monitor/nozzle that offers a safe initial attack on a fire, even with limited staffing. In their application, the department noted "as a volunteer department in a rural area, deployment of personnel and the right equipment is

imperative to not only life safety but also the chances of saving homes and farms."

**Galena Area Emergency Medical Service District** - \$6,800 (\$3,400 from each) for the purchase of new pagers and mobile radios. The Galena EMS is the primary ambulance service for the Galena area, responds to the largest coverage area in Jo Daviess County and is responsible for over 8,300 community members and thousands of weekly visitors to the area.

**Thomson Chamber of Commerce** - \$5,550 (\$2,750 from each) for renovation of the railroad depot. The Thomson Depot Committee recently reorganized and is undertaking preservation and restoration of the old Milwaukee Road Depot, the only remaining depot in Carroll County. As a museum, the depot houses railroad and village memorabilia as well as from the high school. The museum is open May through September; a Depot Day celebration is scheduled for Sept. 21.





## Jo-Carroll Energy launches updated website, announces new office hours

### New website

We're excited to announce we have launched a new website, designed to allow members to easily access Jo-Carroll Energy information.

The new [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) features a responsive design because we want you to have access to information about your co-op when you need it, whether you're using a desktop, tablet or smartphone.

Members can easily access their account login through two locations on the homepage. The homepage also includes links to our live outage map, account management information and the cooperative's services.

The "My Account" tab features account management, bill payment options, new service, and information about capital credits and co-op programs like Co-op Connections. Members will still use the MyAccount Member Services portal to pay their bill – accessed as noted above.

The "Services" tab offers links to electric, natural gas

and internet services as well as FirstCall and stopping or starting service. Rates information is found in this section.

"My Community" offers information about the co-op's community involvement and links to scholarship and Youth Tour opportunities.

"My Co-op" gives members information about the co-op. You will also find job postings, board of directors, board minutes and co-op news on this tab. "Energy Solutions" tab offers energy efficiency information, details about The Energy Detective and efficiency incentives. Members also will find information about our solar farm, distributed generation and the Evergreen program in this section.

"Safety" highlights material to keep members and the public safe around gas and electricity.

### Office hours change Aug. 5

To better serve our members, Jo-Carroll Energy's offices will observe new hours.

Effective Aug. 5, we are

standardizing office hours so that all offices are on the same schedule.

Jo-Carroll Energy's offices in Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Geneseo and Savanna offices will close for lunch from 1-1:30 p.m. each day.

We hope this change in office hours will better accommodate our members, allowing us to serve members before 8 a.m., which is before the start of the workday for many.

You can reach our local offices by phone at 800-858-5522 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

After-hours calls and payments are handled by our call center.

As always, our 800 number is answered 24/7 so we can respond to any outages or emergencies as quickly as possible.

Members also can manage their accounts via phone at 800-858-5522, online at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) or through our mobile app.



## Always assume a downed power line is deadly

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you too could become a victim by entering the energized area.

Power lines can come down or sag close to the ground for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident, for instance. And a downed line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris.

Stay clear of all types of utility lines. Even if you think lines might be designated for telephone or cable service, they may have contact with damaged and energized power lines nearby. We offer these additional safety reminders:

- Damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making or making a humming noise to be live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed line or anything it is touching with another object such as a stick or pole. Even

materials that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are slightly wet.

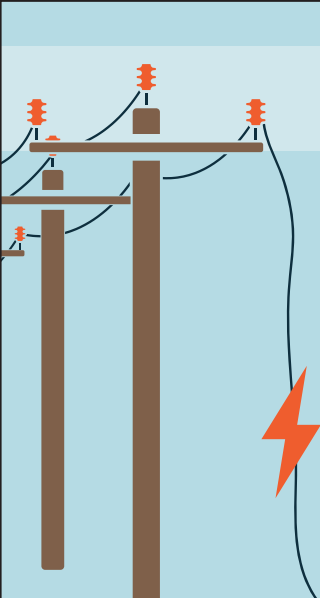
- Do not step in water or walk in debris near a downed power line.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the downed power line.
- Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE until utility crews say it is safe to

get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and DO NOT WALK, but hop away to safety.

- Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators. **James E. Carton**

Always consider all lines, regardless of the type, energized at deadly voltages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

### KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE



Power lines can come down for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones. **When lines do go down there are precautions you need to take to stay safe:**

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines **do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.**
- Stay at least **10 feet** away from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, **remain in the vehicle** until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- **If there is a fire** or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and DO NOT WALK, but hop away to safety.

**Always treat a downed power line as live and never touch any wire that is down. Learn more at:** [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# Jo-Carroll Energy awards scholarships

Jo-Carroll Energy is committed to serving our members and the communities we serve. Each year Jo-Carroll Energy awards a number of scholarships to students in our service territory. All scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits and the generous donation of capital credits by members. More information about our scholarship program can be found at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com).

Natalie Wilkinson



Director Larry Carroll presents a JCE Scholarship to Natalie Wilkinson, a student at Chadwick-Milledgeville.

Abby Moyer



Abby Moyer, a student at Galena High School, accepts a JCE Scholarship from Director Pat Smith.

Megan Ludwig



President and CEO Mike Casper (left) and Director Dan Tindell (right) congratulate Megan Ludwig, a student at River Ridge High School, as a recipient of a JCE Scholarship.

Jaylen Duster



President and CEO Mike Casper (left) and Director Marty Werner (right) present a two-year/technical school scholarship to Jaylen Duster, a student at East Dubuque High School.

Zoey Klavenga



Director Russell Holesinger congratulates JCE Scholarship recipient Zoey Klavenga, a student at Fulton High School.

Jaycie VanKampen



Jaycie VanKampen, a student at West Carroll High School, accepts a JCE Scholarship from executive assistant Amy Johnston.

*\*Additional scholarship recipients will appear in the August Hi-Lines.*



Our office will be closed  
★ Thursday, July 4 for  
Independence Day





## Converting to electric appliances and equipment can benefit members

– and the environment – in the long-run

**B**efore you wake up, electricity is part of your day. What powers your alarm? Was your phone charging overnight? What brews your morning cup of coffee? How do your eggs and milk stay cold?

Electricity.

Given all the ways we constantly rely on electricity, did you realize the power supplied by Jo-Carroll Energy is becoming greener? About 20 percent of electricity generated in our region comes from renewable energy, and that number is growing. A greener grid paired with energy efficiency (which helps members save energy and money) is called beneficial electrification.

Beneficial electrification encourages the electrification of appliances or equipment that have – historically – been powered by fossil fuels. Examples include water heaters, vehicles, stoves, clothes dryers, heating and cooling systems, and even lawn tools and commercial forklifts. When this happens, members benefit from improved energy efficiency, reduced emissions, increasing renewable energy power mix and, in many cases, quieter operation.

As electric utilities incorporate more renewable energy sources into their generation portfolios and make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity uses less fossil fuels per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy produced. Even with more electronics than ever, improved energy efficiency means members are making the most of every kWh of electricity used.

Jo-Carroll is a member of two generation and transmission cooperatives – Dairyland Power Cooperative and Prairie Power, Inc. – who provides members access to reliable power resources which, in turn, makes sure the lights turn on when they are needed.

For Dairyland, renewable energy makes up 20 percent of the co-op's overall power generation portfolio, and it continues to grow. Dairyland's strategic plan to support more renewable generation resources means a member's investment in an efficient electric appliance, vehicle, water heater, clothes dryer, etc., will be powered by a higher percentage of renewable energy throughout the life of the electric device.

Jo-Carroll wants to help all members save money and use their energy wisely. Contact us to learn more about additional beneficial electrification options available to members, including our incentives and load management programs.

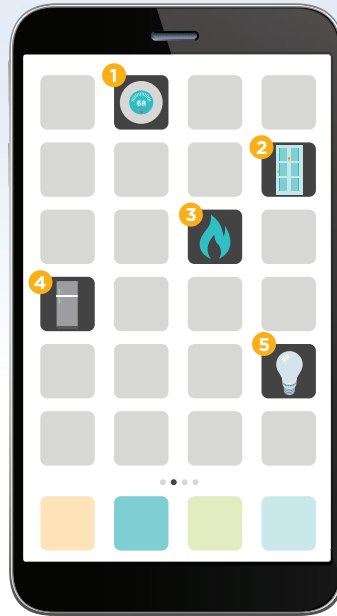
**Environmentally Beneficial Electrification**  
Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas and gasoline.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, like water heaters, weed trimmers and electric vehicles, provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.

# SMART HOME TECH APPS

Smart home technologies are continuously improving, and companion mobile apps take the convenience to a new level. Here's some of the latest app functionalities:



- 1 Smart Thermostat Apps:** Use geofencing on your smartphone to set a boundary around your home. When you leave the boundary, the thermostat will change to away or return mode.
- 2 Smart Security Apps:** Video doorbells allow you to keep a watchful eye from anywhere, and smart security apps can send alerts to signal activity outside your home.
- 3 Smart Smoke and CO Sensor Apps:** These apps have the ability to send alerts, conduct status checks and silence alarms - even when you're away.
- 4 Smart Appliance Apps:** App functionality depends on the appliance. Refrigerator cameras allow you to see what needs to be stocked (while grocery shopping!), and smart dryers can sense when electric use is high and turn off.
- 5 Smart Lighting Apps:** Control lighting options for individual rooms. You can adjust brightness and color all from the convenience of your smartphone!



## A SMART CONNECTION FOR YOUR SMART HOME

You need fast, reliable internet to stay connected . . . we're working to bring it to you.



**Sand Prairie**  
Connecting our members to the world.®

800-858-5522 • [connectSP.com](http://connectSP.com) • 793 US 20 West, Elizabeth IL 61028



Track our progress on the  
Fiber Communities map  
at [connectSP.com](http://connectSP.com)