



HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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20F

Member Appreciation Days

JCE hosts members at all three offices in June

Energizing our communities together

During the Annual Meeting, Dave Senn, your board chair, and I discussed the “The Power of Generations” and the positive impact generations have had on our region during the past 80 years. Today we continue to build on what our earlier generations accomplished. In the future, we will rely on our next generations. The power of generations is about working together, building off each other and growing to become stronger to accomplish so much more.

During the spring high school award ceremonies, I witnessed student receiving scholarships and awards for their accomplishments. By the way, thank you for raising strong, confident young men and women. Also, a big shout out to the teachers and community organizations that instill confidence, work ethic and the importance of community service.

Young adults represent the future of our rural communities. The 25-45-year age segment will form the core of Jo-Carroll Energy’s membership—and cooperative and community leadership—for the next several decades. Combined, that age segment makes up more than 60 percent of the total U.S. workforce.

It is important that cooperative



CEO’S REPORT
by Mike Casper

and community programs align with our younger generation’s interests and expectations. We need to communicate with this audience in new ways in order to engage this audience.

By adopting a more forward-looking community story as well as a mobile- and digital-first communications strategy that overtly aligns to the younger workforce’s values, interests and characteristics, we can capture the attention of these young adults and keep and attract them in our communities. Establishing stronger relationships with this important segment that will form the core of our workforce and communities for the next several decades is critical to the success of our region.

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
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 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
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(800) 858-5522

Resume of Minutes

May 22, 2019

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Joe Mattingley.

Chairman's/AIEC Report – Director Senn provided a summary from the AIEC board meeting, which he recently attended, and discussed the upcoming Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting (June 12) and the Open Board Meeting (June 26). Senn also noted that the proposed bylaw changes will be presented this year during the Annual Meeting.

APGA Report – Directors Carroll, Mattingley, and President and CEO, Mike Casper, attended the APGA Board and Committee Meetings in Washington D.C. and provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report – Director Mattingley provided highlights from the Dairyland Board and managers meeting and discussed the future of Dairyland's generation portfolio.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns 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 on April 24, 2019.

Policy 129.1 (Severance) – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to repeal Policy 129.1.

Governance Overview Topic – Director Tindell discussed the board's role in mitigating and detecting fraud. CFO Chuck Woods discussed Jo-Carroll Energy's accounting control procedures, noting that they have implemented all recommendations from the auditors and no deficiencies were noted in this year's audit report.

CEO Report – President and CEO Casper discussed the "Red Flag Policy" on cybersecurity and noted that this is an operations policy that will be further developed by staff.

Financial Operating Report – YTD operating margins for April were approximately \$3.8 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$2.8 million. The variance is due largely to the timing of various O&M expenses. The current equity of the cooperative is 24.95 percent compared to 24.54 percent this month last year.

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

that the transmission asset sale with ITC is moving forward. The Village of Hanover will be receiving power from Jo-Carroll Energy beginning in July, but the village will otherwise continue with its own utility operations.

External Relations Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed current legislative issues, noting many proposals for new revenue are being considered in Springfield, such as increases in the gas tax and vehicle registration fees, in order to help pay for a new capital bill. Allendorf provided an update on the activities of Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED), including that the NWILED board is moving forward with hiring a new executive director after June 30.

Member Engagement – Merri Sevey, Vice President of Human Resources discussed starting a "volunteer corps" at Jo-Carroll Energy to allow employees to assist groups in the cooperative's service territory when requests are made for volunteers.

Member Services – Jennifer Meyer, VP of Member Services discussed different technology options for directors, as well as providing an overview of new office hours for all the cooperative's office locations.

Board Issues and Action Items –

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the IPEA contract amendment.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the First Call rate proposal.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Cooperative System Integrity Fund participation level.

A motion was made to appoint Director Kuhns and Director Stanger to serve on the PPI Board as the Director and Alternate Director, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Rural E-Connectivity Program ("Reconnect") Resolution.

Executive Session – None

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.



Jo-Carroll Energy students join national electric co-op Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 62 students from 26 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,800 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Two students from the Jo-Carroll Energy service territory were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2019 Youth Tour delegates from Jo-Carroll Energy included Jennah Magill of Savanna and Will Nack of Galena.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's Cottage at First National Cemetery, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,800 Youth Tour participants from

across the nation and a special farewell event at the Newseum, scheduled to close later this year.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says Mike Casper, Jo-Carroll President/CEO. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000

high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.



LABOR DAY

Our office will be closed
Monday, Sept. 2 for
Labor Day



Jo-Carroll Energy honors Power of Generations at 80th annual meeting

As Jo-Carroll Energy celebrated its 80th annual meeting, cooperative leaders emphasized how the power of generations has helped build the co-op.

President and CEO Mike Casper noted in his remarks that three generations before him, his great-grandparents had been among the first members of Jo-Carroll Energy as he addressed the crowd at the meeting held June 12 in Mount Carroll. A little more than 80 years before that night, another meeting was held just down the road at the Carroll County Courthouse where the cooperative was formed, prompting the election of the co-op's first nine directors.

"The Power of Generations has taken us far these past 80 years and will continue to into the future. Member satisfaction and community success are two of Jo-Carroll Energy's key principles," Casper said. **Jennifer Dombeck**

Referencing the co-op's vision to enhance the quality of life for our members, Casper noted "Eighty years ago that meant turning on the lights; today it is connecting our members to the world through high-speed internet service, which will continue our tradition of growth and innovation.

"High-speed internet service will help expand possibilities for the next generations in our rural



JCE President and CEO Mike Casper congratulates the 2019 recipient of a Lineworker Scholarship, Chris Simon.



Four students were awarded Director's Scholarships at Jo-Carroll Energy's Annual Meeting. From left, District 8 Director Russell Holesinger, Kameron Kiley, Cassidy Feyen, Caitlin Breuer, Aiden Greiner and District 5 Director Pat Smith.



communities by enhancing local innovation, workforce development, precision agriculture, education and health care," he said. "For our area to grow, we must have in place a qualified and competent workforce to retain and draw new businesses to the area that will keep our economic engine turning. With high-speed internet service, we will be on a more level playing field with our urban counterparts in retaining and attracting a younger workforce."

Environmental stewardship, another of Jo-Carroll's principles, also is essential for future generations, Casper said. He and board president Dave Senn both noted that the co-op supports a diversified energy mix that includes renewable energy. Senn told members that Dairyland Power Cooperative, Jo-Carroll's larger power supplier, is on a path to have 25 percent renewable power by 2025.

Senn stressed that the co-op and members need to work together so that rural America will flourish in the future. He urged members to vote in every election when they have the opportunity, so that officials will "know you exist and care.

"Let them know their help is needed today, just as it was when the REA was established to electrify rural America," he said. "Both federal and state help are needed to finance access to the world of high-speed internet, not just to promote economic development, but to offer educational opportunity for those who desire it, as well as our children who need to pursue their own success."

He asked members to remind elected officials that rural electric co-ops employ

more than 71,000, pay \$1.3 billion in state and local taxes, and represent 42 percent of the national electric distribution system.

The event was the cooperative's annual business meeting of the membership and appreciation dinner. Three directors were re-elected to the board by a vote of acclamation during the meeting. They were Martin Werner of District 1, Joe Mattingley of District 2 and Dan Tindell of District 4. All were running unopposed.

Members approved bylaw amendments, including one that provides the cooperative with greater flexibility to communicate with members electronically and a hybrid method of voting for director elections.

At the close of the meeting, four area high school seniors were awarded director's scholarships. They were Kameron Kiley, Cassidy Feyen, Caitlin Breuer and Aiden Greiner.





Member Appreciation Days

Jo-Carroll Energy hosted Member Appreciation Days at all three of its offices during June. Members had the opportunity to talk with directors and employees, play games to win prizes and enjoy a pork chop or hot dog off the grill.



Nicole Lewis, a senior at Geneseo High School, receives a Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarship from JCE President and CEO Mike Casper.





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BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

Electrification isn't just for inside the home. Your garage is full of opportunities to "go electric" and, if you are brand loyal, many of the rechargeable batteries can be interchangeable with other power tools by the brand.

Lawn edgers and trimmers are available with electric cords or rechargeable batteries. While battery life has room for improvement, the machine doesn't require much maintenance and is lighter than a gas model. A corded model will provide consistent power. Be sure you are using a proper cord, and be sure to inspect cords and discontinue using them if there is fraying visible.

Electric lawn mowers offer a quieter experience. You'll want to research how long batteries last to determine how an electric mower will work for your property.

For members who have a long list of things they'd rather do on a weekend than mow a lawn, robotic lawn mowers have arrived! Think of it as a Roomba® for your lawn that also returns to its charging station when it senses the battery is getting low. Prices can vary by model. Check with your local retailer for more information.

Jo-Carroll wants to help all members save money and use their energy wisely, visit us online at jocarroll.com.



For more information on beneficial electrification, contact Jo-Carroll Energy

Visit Illinois TSE co-ops at the Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to see you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur Aug. 27-29. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Electric Cooperative's booth at its new location on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. You'll find us next to the new Grain System Inc. display.

Representatives from Jo-Carroll Energy and several other Illinois electric cooperatives will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety around electricity, energy efficiency and much more. Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Corn Belt Energy Corporation, where you'll learn from a safety expert about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. You can also see a pole climbing demonstration, too.

Stop by the booth to charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While you're there, play

a game for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections card or show the Co-op Connections app will receive a special gift.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show. Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For 66 years, The Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit farm-progressshow.com to learn more about the 2019 Farm Progress Show. The show rotates annually between Decatur and a site in Boone, Iowa.



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Cooperatives

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