

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



## 20C

### Beneficial electrification

Drive electric



## 20D

### Emergency preparation

Be prepared before the storm



## 20G

### Farm safety

Remember electrical safety this harvest season

## Reporting outages, fiber expansion & more

# Questions from the annual meeting

There were a record number of participants at this year's member appreciation days, as well as over 350 attendees at this year's annual meeting. I was able to meet with many of you one-on-one and you had great questions. For those of our members who weren't able to attend these events, I thought it would be informative to provide you with those questions and our responses.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions or suggestions at 1-800-858-5522. We are here for you.

### How does Jo-Carroll know if you are without power?

You must call 800-858-5522 and report an outage. The line crews are then dispatched to make the appropriate repairs and confirm power is restored to the meters. Your calls to the 800 number are a vital part of helping us respond to outages.

Because of your call, we are able to identify other members who may be out of power on your line and post it to our "Storm Center Outage Map," which is located on our website for you to view on your smart phone, tablet or computer. You can also follow us on Facebook for updates on electric, natural gas and internet outages.



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

### Who do I contact about interconnection of distributed generation (i.e., solar or a back-up generator)?

Distributed generation (DG) is electric generation technologies that are decentralized and designed to supplement or replace power produced by centralized electric generation facilities. Jo-Carroll Energy supports DG as a viable and sound means of meeting electric needs of various consumer groups. If you're considering a grid-connected distributed generation system for your home, please contact Jo-Carroll Energy first at 800-858-5522. We want to help you choose a system that includes the safety and power quality components necessary to keep you, co-op crews and members of the community safe. An interconnection agreement with the cooperative must be reviewed and signed before your system is connected to the grid. Additional information can be located in the following link: [www.jocarroll.com/distributed-generation](http://www.jocarroll.com/distributed-generation)

### What are Jo-Carroll's plans to expand fiber?

We are committed to bringing high-speed internet to our area. We

continued on page 20C ▶

## 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  
www.jocarroll.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

# Resume of Minutes

June 26, 2019

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 9 a.m.

## A Safety Moment was provided by Chairman Dave Senn.

An introduction for members attending the "Open Board Meeting" was made.

**Presentation** – A presentation was provided by Director of Utility Operations, Bob Pelelo. Pelelo discussed Jo-Carroll Energy's natural gas and electric systems, including major projects that are in progress or have been completed. Pelelo also commented on the crews that were deployed to assist with restoration efforts after a recent storm in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Pelelo noted that over 600 poles were broken or damaged and Jo-Carroll Energy's crews were able to help restore power quickly.

**Chairman's/AIEC Report** – Chairman Senn discussed the importance of bringing fiber to rural America and noted that many members are diversifying their energy resources through solar, and other technologies. Senn reminded members to first contact Jo-Carroll Energy to discuss a potential project to ensure expectations are met. Senn also commented on the importance of getting out the rural vote so that rural issues are heard by legislators.

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

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report** – President and CEO Casper provided highlights from the Dairyland board and managers meeting and discussed the work being done on developing a more flexible rate structure.

**Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report** – Director Kuhns provided the PPI generation reports and highlights from the PPI board meeting he recently attended. Kuhns discussed key take-aways from the PPI Annual Meeting. Policy 130 (Capital Credit Retirement) – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy 130 as written.

**Governance Overview Topic** – Director Stanger discussed portions of the NRECA's "21st Century" report regarding the board's governance responsibilities, including the board setting policies and the importance of reviewing those policies. Director Stanger also discussed the importance of board leadership and effective communication with members.

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Casper provided highlights from the Member Appreciation Days.

**Financial Operating Report** – YTD operating margins through May were approximately \$4 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 25.2 percent compared to 25.06 percent this month last year.

**Strategic Objectives** – Kyle Buros, Senior VP and Assistant General Manager gave a brief overview of broadband operations.

**External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed current legislative issues. Allendorf noted that the new Illinois cannabis law included strong protections for employers allowing them to maintain a zero-tolerance policy at work. Allendorf also discussed the new \$45 billion capital that includes a doubling of the gas tax to \$0.38/gallon and an increase in vehicle registration fees across the board. Allendorf also stated that the board of Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) was close to hiring a new executive director.

### Board Issues and Action Items –

Attendees were selected for the Region 5 & 6 Meeting.

NRECA Director Election Voting Delegate and an Alternate Voting Delegate were selected.

President and CEO Mike Casper was nominated to serve as an APGA Director.

The floor was opened for general questions from the members.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 10:25 a.m. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:52 a.m.

**Action Items as a result of Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the following: The board acknowledges that a conflict exists for Director Mattingley, and, pursuant to the bylaws, finds significant cause exists to waive the conflict, with certain exceptions. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

### Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

# Questions from the Annual Meeting

continued from page 20A

continue to leverage our existing fiber network to extend fiber for the cooperative's own operational uses, and ultimately to the members we serve. While fiber isn't currently available throughout all

of the service territory, you can visit [connectSP.com](http://connectSP.com) to track our progress and let us know you want fiber by completing the interest form. Doing so will help us plan for the future and bring fiber to your area more quickly and efficiently.

the consolidated financial statements.

The auditor concluded that, in their opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. as of Dec. 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. More details on specific aspects of the cooperative's finances are available in the auditor's notes contained in the report.

## 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.

## Questions regarding financials

A few questions regarding our 2018 financials were asked. Included on Jo-Carroll Energy's website is an independent auditor's report, which can be located in the "Financials" subtab under the "My Co-op" tab. Included are

## National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 14-22

### Drive electric

#### Did you know:

- The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland;
- According to the Electric Auto Association, electric vehicles outsold gasoline cars 10-to-1 in the late 1890s;
- In the early 1900s, the United States led the world in number of EVs on the road

Even though internal combustion engines overtook EVs in the market, modern advances in technology have re-energized plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) and battery electric vehicle (BEV) sales.

In 2018, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) reported about 40 different

models of EVs available for sale with the number expected to increase to 90 models by 2022. While sedans are currently the most popular EV option, crossovers and SUVs have arrived with pricing for new EVs ranging from around \$20,000 up to six figures, depending on the model and features.

PHEV and BEV manufacturers include Audi, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, FIAT, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar, Kia, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, MINI, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Porsche, smart, Subaru, Tesla, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo. Needless to say, there is no shortage of options – both high-end and mainstream – to find a quality EV. Public charging stations are also increasing and can be found via one of many

"EV charging" apps in the App Store or Google Play.

Although some EVs are more expensive to purchase, an EV owner can save money throughout the life of the vehicle through reduced maintenance costs, as well as fuel savings. Based on the U.S. average of 12.5 cents per kWh, electricity is equivalent to gasoline priced at \$1/gallon. But those aren't the only advantages to owning an EV.

Even with a hybrid, gas mileage is higher than a comparable vehicle with an internal combustion engine. PHEVs allow a member to drive emissions free anytime the battery is in use.

Visit our website at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) for more information about electric vehicles and beneficial electrification.

# Don't wait. Be prepared before the storm.

By Anne Prince, NRECA

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).



## Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

## With advance warning

If a severe storm such as a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

## During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Jo-Carroll Energy's website and Facebook for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property. **Jason Elder**

## Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings. Act today, because there is power in planning.

# 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 consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) 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 consumers. When a major outage occurs, 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:

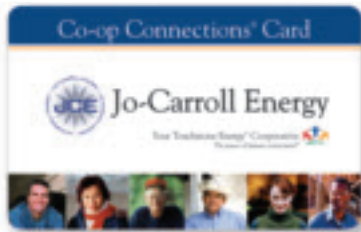
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## 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. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.



## Discover all the local ways to save by being a co-op member

**Apple River:** Peaceful Pines Guesthouse

**Atkinson:** Inspired Life Yoga Studio

**Clinton:** Alternative Wellness and Chiropractic Center, CGI Isulation

**Dubuque:** Anytime Fitness

**Elizabeth:** Jug's Main Street Tap, Vincent Earthmoving, Jansen Heating, Apple River State Bank, The View Motel, Cajun Jacks

**Fulton:** Cuttin Loose With Style, River City Fence Company, Susan's Calico Creations

**Galena:** United Country Heartland Realty- Angela Stodden, Cindy's Classic Catering, Cloran Mansion Bed & Breakfast, Country Inn & Suites Carlson, Dream Catcher, Fever River Outfitters, Galena IL Vacation Rentals, Grant Hills Motel, Great American Popcorn Company, Hellman Guest House Bed & Breakfast, Illinois Bank and Trust, Karl Stodden Construction, Law Office of Julie Mark Helman, Lefevre Inn & Resort, Market House REstaurant, Renew Salon, Stoney Creek Inn, Dillons HM

**Geneseo:** All In Stiches, Artists in Motion, B&B Equipment Store, Vision Source, Maple Grove Framing & Gallery, Maple Leaf Medical Services, Pegasus Fine Gifts, Snap Fitness Geneseo, Underground Graphics, Alexis' Doggie Spa, One way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

**Miles:** Trenkamp Electric

**Mt.Carroll:** Flower Fan-A-See, Healthy Touch Massage & Salon, Kunes Country Auto Group, Schneider House Furniture and Floor Covering, Sievert's Steaks-N-Stuff

**Sabula:** River City Heating

**Savanna:** Neat Repeats Thrift Store, Outback Dee-zign Salon & Spa, The Answer Fitness, The Answer Physical Therapy, Manny's Pizza Savanna

**Stockton:** Glad Rags Resale Boutique, Ink & Paper

**Thomson:** Executive Inn

**Warren:** Gray Unlimited Restoration, Shawn Saunders Insulation Specialist

For discounts near you,  
Visit: [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)



# Farmers: Remember electrical safety this harvest season

In 2017, farmers ranked eighth in the list of the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics/U.S. Dept. of Labor. Unfortunately, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers rank right below other hazardous jobs such as logging, roofing, and steel work.

It is no wonder farmers make that list. As agriculturists are well-aware, many dangers are present in their long and arduous workdays.

Safe Electricity and Jo-Carroll Energy remind farmers that accidents related to power and electricity are also possible but in most cases they can be prevented. Especially during the busy harvest season, take the following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us right away.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Although harvest season is a time filled with tight deadlines and heightened work stress, take the time to consider electrical safety. It could save your life or the lives of others.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



# CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS

*You deserve fast, reliable internet . . . 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

## Sand Prairie neighborhoods

- ▶ EAST DUBUQUE: ED 1 Construction; Sign-up for service by Sept. 3 to have installation fee waived. All other ED neighborhoods @ Interest
- ▶ ELIZABETH: All ELZ neighborhoods, installation available
- ▶ GALENA: G0 & G15 Installation available; G8 & G16 @ Sign-up. All others @ Interest
- ▶ HIGH RIDGE: G17 Construction expected Fall '19
- ▶ MENOMINEE: MEN1 @ Interest Phase
- ▶ CHESTNUT: CHT1 Construction expected Fall '19
- ▶ THE GALENA TERRITORY: GT10 Construction; Sign-up for service by Nov. 4 to have installation fee waived. GT5 & GT 6 @ Sign-up. All other GT neighborhoods @ Interest
- ▶ APPLE CANYON LAKE: CYN6 - Construction. All other CYN neighborhoods @ Interest
- ▶ MT CARROLL: All neighborhoods @ Interest Phase
- ▶ SAVANNA: SAV11 PreConstruction; all other neighborhoods @ Interest Phase
- ▶ SCALES MOUND: SM1 Sign-up; all other neighborhoods @ Interest Phase



**Track our progress!**

Visit the Fiber Communities map [connectSP.com](http://connectSP.com) to see if service is available in your area or to tell us you're interested.



## JCE CO-OP REMINDERS

Sept. 2  
JCE Offices closed in observance of Labor Day

October  
Co-op Month

October  
Annual utility pole inspection

Oct. 23  
JCE Board of Directors Open Board Meeting @ Geneseo