

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

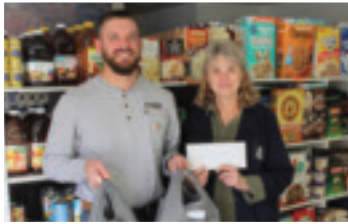
CONTENTS | Elizabeth, Illinois | 800-858-5522 | www.jocarroll.com



## 20C

### Board of directors

Petitions available for 2020 director nominations



## 20D-E

### Annual food drive

Light Up the Holidays drive helps local food pantries



## 20F

### Electric vehicles

JCE installs EV station in Savanna

## Jo-Carroll Energy 2020 budget approved with inflation driven rate increase

At the December meeting, the Jo-Carroll Energy board approved a budget that includes a rate increase of 2.5 percent to recover expected increased costs from suppliers and to maintain adequate financial ratios with our lenders. The 2.5 percent increase will also apply to our natural gas members, primarily due to increased costs from one of our natural gas transmission pipeline suppliers, Northern Natural Gas (NNG). Please note that we have intervened, along with other end-users, in the rate case at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding NNG to try and minimize the increase. Prior to last year, Jo-Carroll Energy had not raised rates for five years.

Despite the increase, electricity and natural gas are still some of the greatest values in our everyday lives. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, average annual nationwide price increases between 2013 and 2018 (5 years) for rent has increased 3.6 percent and for cable and satellite TV 3 percent.

We understand that rate increases are never welcome news. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Jo-Carroll must recover the costs of doing business, as well as maintaining sufficient margins to reinvest in the distribution system and to satisfy covenants with our lenders. Today, just as for you and most of the businesses we serve, the cost for materials, products and services continues to increase. In 2018



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

the average U.S. inflation rate was 2.4 percent. The 12-month increase through November 2019 is 2.1 percent (latest data available at time of submission).

As you may recall, in 2018 we hired a consulting firm to conduct an independent cost of service study (COSS). The COSS identified the equitable contribution to margins by the respective rate classes. Using the results of the COSS, we will review each of the current rate designs to recover an equitable amount from each rate class. The objective is for each consumer class to pay for the costs incurred by the cooperative to serve them while contributing a reasonable margin to reinvest in upgrading and maintaining the system, as well as meeting financial requirements.

The new rates will be reflected on bills issued on or after April 10, 2020. Specifics will be communicated in a later newsletter inside *Illinois Country Living* magazine.

### 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

www.jocarroll.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

# Resume of Minutes

Oct. 23, 2019 - Open Board Meeting

The open board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's office in Geneseo, Illinois on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Larry Carroll.

### Member Comments – None

**Chairman's/AIEC Report** – Senn discussed beginning preparations for strategic planning. Senn also discussed current interest in solar distributed generation and steps the cooperative is taking to accommodate members who want to pursue solar while balancing the requirements for running the cooperative in the interest of the entire membership.

**Policy 133** – A motion was made seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy 133, Wage and Salary Plan, as written.

**Governance Overview Topic** – Director Russ Holesinger discussed "Member Access to Information" from the *Electric Cooperative Governance Task Force Report*.

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Casper reviewed the cooperative's unbundled rates, their components, and how that information is presented to members.

**Financial Operating Report** – YTD operating margins through September were approximately \$3.9 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$2.5 million. The current equity of the cooperative is 25.74% compared to 22.96% this month last year.

**Operations Update** – Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager Kyle Buros provided an update on strategic priorities in the fourth quarter.

**External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations and General Counsel, had nothing to add outside of his written report.

### Board Issues and Action Items – A

motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a new policy regarding cybersecurity.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Capital Credits General Retirement.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Position Statement (Beneficial Electrification).

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 12:08 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 12:55 p.m.

### Action items as a result of Executive

**Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously that, pursuant to the terms of an employment contract with Michael Casper as President and CEO, Casper's performance is found to be satisfactory and to proceed with fulfilling certain contractual obligations as a result of that finding.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

## JCE CO-OP REMINDERS

### Office closing

- Our offices are closed on Monday, **Feb. 17** for an all employee-training day.

### Important Date

- Jo-Carroll Energy is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive at our Elizabeth office on Thursday, **Feb. 27** from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Petitions available for 2020 director nominations



Nomination petitions are now available for the three districts up for election on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors in 2020.

The director districts up for election include Districts 3, 6 and 9. Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in a district up for election – including the incumbent – may petition for nomination in that district.

The board of directors is made up of members and consumers just like you who live in and are a part of communities we service. Running for the board and voting in elections are benefits of being a co-op member.

Members interested in seeking election may download a petition from the cooperative's website at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) or pick up a form at any of JCE's offices.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 JCE members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth no earlier than Jan. 13 and no later than April 9.

In order to qualify to have their name on the ballot, all nominees must also participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors. These include, but are not limited to, time demands, education expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be listed on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in the cooperative bylaws posted at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com). Anyone without internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

GET CONNECTED

With

# CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Jo-Carroll Energy

## C & N EMBROIDERY AND SUCH

800 Spring Street  
Galena, IL 61036  
815-777-6167

Use your Co-op Connections card at C & N Embroidery and Such in Galena and received 10% off on one item.

## GREAT AMERICAN POPCORN CO.

110 S. Main Street  
Galena, IL  
815-777-4116

Use your Co-op Connections card at the Great American Popcorn Company and get one bag of popcorn free with your purchase of three bags.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF DEALS, VISIT [WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP](http://WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP) AND CLICK ON B2B SAVINGS. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE CARD TO RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON PRESCRIPTIONS AS WELL AS DENTAL, VISION AND CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES. FOR PROVIDERS CALL 800-800-7616.



# Annual food drive benefits local pantries

Thanks to the generosity of Jo-Carroll Energy members and employees, the 2019 Light Up the Holidays food drive saw another successful year. Proceeds from the annual drive were divided between the 10 pantries in Jo-Carroll's service territory.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors also approved cash donations of \$500 to each of the 10 pantries. They are:

## In Jo Daviess County

- East Dubuque Food Pantry
- Elizabeth Food Basket
- Hanover Food Bank
- United Churches of Galena Food Pantry

## In Carroll County

- Helping Hands Food Pantry (Chadwick and Milledgeville)
- Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry

## In Whiteside County

- Albany Food Pantry
- Erie Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry

## In Henry County

- Geneseo Food Pantry



Norma Schwirtz and Andrea Young, Elizabeth Food Pantry, accepted a \$500 donation and non-perishable food items from Jo-Carroll Energy's Bob Pelelo and Jennifer Meyer.



Ben Andersen and Tom Lang of the East Dubuque Food Pantry accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of non-perishable food items from Jo-Carroll Energy's Kevin Ehrler.



Louis Wildt, Curt Huizenga and Jean Spaid, Erie Food Pantry volunteers, left, accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of food from Jamie Kluzek, Jo-Carroll Energy, right.



Jo-Carroll Energy presented the United Churches of Galena Food Pantry with a \$500 donation along with several bags of groceries. Pictured from left are Jo-Carroll's Jamie Kluzek and Chris Allendorf; Tom Van Gelder, food pantry director; and Cindy Maeder, Jo-Carroll Energy.



Leanne Dublo, director of the Milledgeville Food Pantry, accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Brandon Beyer.



Jo-Carroll Energy presented the Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry a \$500 donation along with several bags of non-perishable groceries. Pictured from left are Jamie Kluzek of Jo-Carroll Energy; Harlan "H" Wiebenga, Rob Pessman, Nancy Shear, Ron Shear, Jan Vanzuiden, Dale Huizenga, Jane Johnson, food pantry volunteers; and Mike Kussmaul of Jo-Carroll Energy.



Pat Anglese and Toni Lucas, directors of the Albany Food Pantry, accepted a \$500 donation and bags of non-perishable groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Mike Kussmaul.



Marilee Hejna, Lorraine Speer, Becky Reifsteck, Linda Reitz and Nancy Groezinger of the Hanover Food Pantry accepted a \$500 donation and non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy's Bob Pelelo and Jennifer Meyer.



Jolynn Kitterman, director of the Geneseo Food Pantry, accepted a \$500 donation and bags of non-perishable groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Laurel LeSage.



Barry Eddy, director of the Savanna Food Pantry accepts a \$500 donation as well as non-perishable food items from Amy Johnston of Jo-Carroll Energy.



## Jo-Carroll installs EV station in Savanna

**E**lectric vehicle (EV) drivers now have a new place to get a charge with installation of an EV station in the front parking lot at Jo-Carroll Energy's office in Savanna.

Co-op crews finished installation of the EV station in December. The dual station includes two Level 2 chargers that provide about 20 to 25 miles of battery range for every hour the vehicle is plugged in.

Location of the EV station at the co-op office helps support the community, noted Dean Skinner, manager of engineering services. Just off Highway 84, the location is near downtown commercial businesses and restaurants as well as outdoor recreation. **John W. Jones**

The EV station hardware was provided to the co-op by our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, as part of its program to encourage EV use, Skinner noted.

The Dairyland program helps create awareness of EVs and promotes EV travel between its member cooperatives. Installing EV stations along major highways helps alleviate range anxiety, according to Dairyland's website.

A second EV station was installed for the cooperative's own use at the headquarters in Elizabeth. It is used to charge Jo-Carroll's hybrid Honda, as well as EVs driven by visitors from Dairyland and other cooperatives. The station also removes some restrictions to expanding the cooperative's own fleet.

### In our communities...

**T**hirteen employees and three directors recently donated their years of service awards to local charities in 2019.

#### Employees recognized included:

**Ten years** – Brad Travis, Ken Sivertsen, Kevin Krug, Tim Knockel, Wanda Honerbaum, Howard Helms and Jeff Harrelson.

**Five years** – Mark Wild, Ryan Stadel, Mike Hoppman, Les Hanson, Diane Edmonds and Ryan Doty.

**Directors recognized for 12 years of service each** – Pat Smith, Joe Mattingley and Martin Werner.

# SAVE ENERGY & MONEY with our



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

### 2020 energy efficiency incentives are here!

Being energy efficient puts dollars in your pocket by lowering your energy bill, and it also qualifies you for additional dollars through our incentive program.

Our 2020 Energy Efficiency program includes incentives for both our electric and natural gas members. Eligible members can qualify for rebates on electric clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, freezer recycling, refrigerator recycling, window air conditioner recycling, and CFL and LED light fixtures; electric HVAC; natural gas HVAC; and natural gas water heaters, stoves and dryers.



*Isn't it time to recycle that old, inefficient window air conditioner?*

#### To qualify for one of our incentives in 2020:

- Purchase and/or install a qualified energy efficient product in 2020.
- Submit required documentation as soon as possible as funds are limited. Incentives are in place through Dec. 31, 2020 or until funds are depleted.
- Submit forms and documentation by Jan. 3, 2021.
- Incentive forms and complete information are available at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or by visiting [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com).

# Win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

JO-CARROLL ENERGY WILL SEND TWO STUDENTS ON AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP to **WASHINGTON, D.C.** **JUNE 19-26**

Contest open to high school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are JCE members.

**APPLY BY FEB. 10, 2020**

Additional information and application at [jocarroll.com/youth-washington](http://jocarroll.com/youth-washington)



# Imagine what you can do... with fast, reliable FIBER internet

## Sand Prairie fiber neighborhoods status

Sand Prairie fiber internet service is now available in 11 different polygons or fiber neighborhoods across our service territory.

- ▶ Elizabeth (neighborhoods ELZ1-6, 8-9)
- ▶ Galena (neighborhoods G0 & 15)
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake (neighborhood CYN6)
- ▶ East Dubuque: ED 1
- ▶ High Ridge: G17

**25 Mbps is \$59.99 and 250 Mbps is just \$74.99 per month! You can get 1 Gig (1000 Mbps) for \$99.99 or our maximum speeds of 2 Gig (2000 Mbps) for \$299.99 per month.**

### Under construction

Eight additional areas in construction or pre-construction (as of press time):

- ▶ Chestnut: CHT1 construction
- ▶ The Galena Territory: GT10 Construction
- ▶ Elizabeth: ELZ 10 pre-construction
- ▶ Savanna: SAV11 pre-construction

- ▶ York: YRK 1 pre-construction
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake: CYN 7 pre-construction

### Sign up open

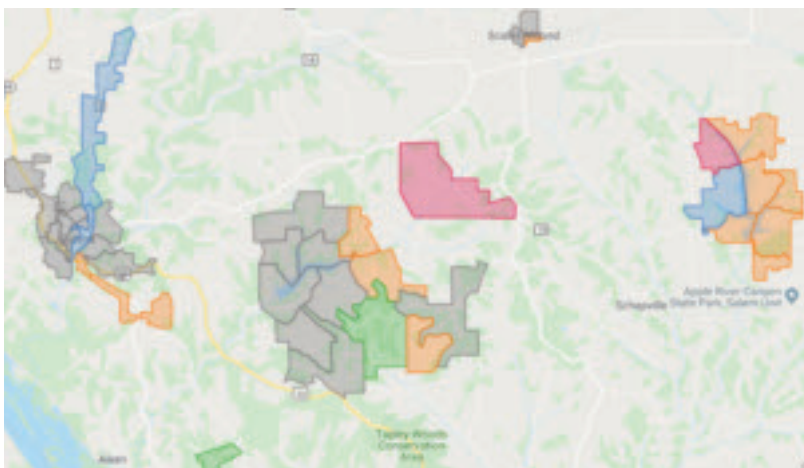
Several other fiber neighborhoods have reached the level of interest so that we can complete engineering and members can select a package and sign up for service:

- ▶ Galena: G8 & 16
- ▶ The Galena Territory: GT 5-6 & 13
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake: CYN 1-5
- ▶ Fenton: FTN 1
- ▶ Scales Mound: SM1



**Track our progress!**

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



## Want fiber in your neighborhood?

You can tell us you want fiber in your neighborhood by completing the short and simple interest form at [connectSP.com/iwantfiber](https://connectSP.com/iwantfiber). AND, you can encourage your neighbors to submit interest also.

Interest is one factor we use to help us determine where to build fiber next.



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

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