

# 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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Picture this, your photos in print

## Jo-Carroll Energy's principle of environmental stewardship

Earth Day on April 22 is considered one of the world's largest civic events. The day is celebrated in many different ways around the world. For me, it provides an opportunity to reflect on Jo-Carroll Energy's responsibility for environmental quality.

I want to share some things that we have done and are planning at Jo-Carroll Energy (Jo-Carroll) to better your corner of the world.

1. The purchase of power from a 1.5 megawatt (MW) solar facility north of Thomson, Ill.
2. The development of two additional solar arrays (total 1.66 MW) near Apple Canyon Lake and North of Mount Carroll that are expected to be in production by the end of summer.
3. The addition of a dual electric vehicle charging station at our Savanna office parking lot.
4. Have assisted our members in interconnecting nearly 300 solar arrays totaling 2.6 MW.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

**Audit your light bulbs.** Swapping out any remaining incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs can make



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

#### Maintain your HVAC system.

Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters helps your unit run more efficiently – keeping you and your home more comfortable.

**Examine your smart or programmable thermostat.** Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

**Seal windows and doors.** Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also help to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

*Continued on 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

January 30, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting

*The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 9 a.m.*

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Bob Kuhns.

**Chairman's/AIEC Report** – Chairman Senn provided a report from the most recent AIEC meeting he attended, focusing on beneficial electrification and governance committee articles that can be shared amongst directors.

**APGA Report** – Director Larry Carroll discussed standards and regulations within the natural gas industry, as well as public awareness programs.

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report** – Mattingley discussed highlights from the Dairyland board meeting, the closure of Genoa Generating Plant #3, and DPC succession planning for Barb Nick.

**Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report** – Director Kuhns provided an update from PPI's board meeting and discussed their most recent generation numbers. Kuhns also discussed the expansion of solar and different options available to keep up with generation demands.

**Jo Daviess Energy District Discussion** – Dan Tindell discussed the initiative.

**Policy 135** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy 135 – Workplace Violence, as written.

**Financial Operating Report** – YTD operating margins through December were approximately \$2.5 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$2.0 million. The current equity of the cooperative is 24.51 percent compared to 22.83 percent this month last year.

**2020 Goals and Focus** – President and CEO Casper discussed 2020 goals and areas of focus.

**Board Issues and Action Items** – Senior

V.P. and Assistant General Manager Kyle Buros discussed the position statement regarding resiliency and sustainability.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 219 Forms for construction work approval.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the member rates for 2020-2021. Members will be receiving communications from the cooperative regarding the new rates.

**Operations Update** – Kyle Buros, Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager, provided an update on the ITC transmission plan for 2020, noting they will be upgrading the infrastructure in Carroll County that they acquired from Jo-Carroll Energy ahead of schedule. ITC will be investing several million dollars in this project.

**External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed current legislative issues and the State of the State Address. Allendorf provided an update on the activities of Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED).

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 11:40 a.m. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

**Action items as a result of Executive Session** – None.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

## Nomination petitions for 2020 director elections due April 9

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. *Kevin Leonhardt* 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 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.

### "Environmental" continued from 20A

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference. We're always here to help you save energy. Jo-Carroll offers members a free, walk-through home energy assessment as well as full energy audits for a reasonable fee. For more information about these programs, contact our energy advisor John Scott at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339.



As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community – and our beautiful planet.

## Director's Scholarships deadline is May 1

High school seniors still have time to apply for Jo-Carroll Energy's "Director's Scholarships" that are awarded at the Annual Meeting of Members.

Up to 10 Director's Scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded, one in each of the cooperative's 10 districts. (If no applications are received from a district, that scholarship will become an "at-large" scholarship.)

Current high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Jo-Carroll Energy, and who have not won another JCE scholarship, are eligible to receive a Director's Scholarship. Application forms are found under the Community tab of our website.

The applicant and at least one of their parents or guardians must attend the annual meeting on June 10 at River Ridge High School.



# Respect the orange signs

## Move over and slow down in work zones

For many, there aren't enough hours in the day. Because of that, many people use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend or apply mascara.

Multitasking can be an effective use of time, but not while driving.

In 2017, 799 people died in work zone accidents, according to the U.S. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries and deaths can happen in any roadside work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions — including moving over to give them space — anytime you see orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put an



In 2018,  
**754 people died** in  
work zone accidents.

Source: [workzonesafety.org](http://workzonesafety.org)

elevated lineworker in danger by causing the bucket he or she is in to move or sway.

Lineworkers already have enough to contend with by working high up on power lines while out in the elements. Their profession consistently places on the Bureau of Labor Statistics most dangerous jobs. Do your part; please don't add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

Other 2017 statistics released by the U.S. DOT's FHWA include:

- 203 fatal crashes where speeding was a factor
- 222 fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses
- 132 worker fatalities in road construction sites

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

*Jo-Carroll Energy will be closed Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.*

### 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.



## Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, Jo-Carroll Energy along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

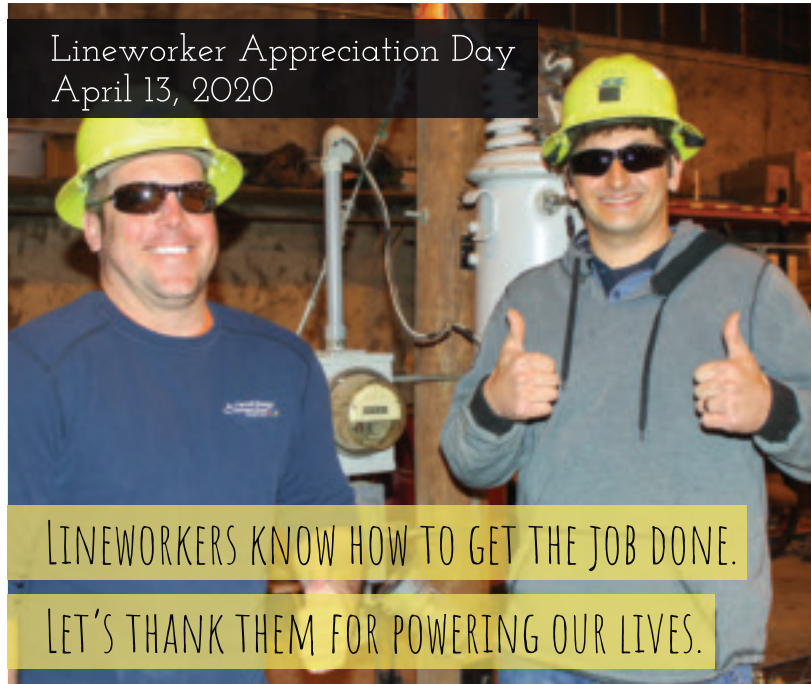
Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Jo-Carroll Energy is proud to honor the lineworkers who maintain the 2,375 miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank

a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



### TEN REASONS WE APPRECIATE LINeworkERS

Although we appreciate each and every employee at Jo-Carroll Energy, it takes a special kind of person to be a lineworker. Here are 10 reasons we appreciate our lineworkers.

10. They are specially trained to work on power lines and related equipment.
9. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently restoring power when extreme weather or other conditions cause the power to go out.
8. They are willing to work overtime or get up in the middle of the night to help restore power.
7. They enjoy serving our communities.
6. They aren't afraid of heights.
5. They are willing to help other utilities with major outages at a moment's notice.
4. They often lend their talents to help other countries with less established or damaged electrical distribution systems.
3. They enjoy working with each other and have each other's backs.
2. They are trained to work on both dead and live power lines and must always be dedicated to safety.
1. We couldn't provide excellent service without them or any of our other dedicated employees.

## Picture this, your photos in print

Jo-Carroll Energy is looking for entries for its 2020 Photo Contest. Winners will be featured in the 2021 Jo-Carroll Energy Calendar.

The contest is open until June 30. We are looking for images that represent life in our service territory – whether they are action shots or scenic landscapes. Entrants must be Jo-Carroll Energy members. All photos must be the work of the entrant and be taken within the Jo-Carroll Energy service territory.

From the member submissions, we choose 12 photos to appear on the calendar pages along with front and back cover photos. Several others



will be selected as honorable mention.

For complete rules and entry information, visit [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) or contact Peggy Francomb,

manager of communications and marketing, at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218 or [pfrancomb@jocarroll.com](mailto:pfrancomb@jocarroll.com).

## MANY WAYS TO SAVE, ALL IN ONE BASKET

A large advertisement featuring a field of tall grass in the foreground with several colorful Easter eggs (gold, blue, purple, green). In the background, a child in a pink shirt is running across the field under a clear blue sky. The text 'MANY WAYS TO SAVE, ALL IN ONE BASKET' is overlaid on the top left. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'The One Card That Does It All.® Connections.coop' and a 'Co-op Connections Card' logo for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

The One Card That Does It All.®  
**Connections.coop**



# Beautify your yard, not utility equipment

**G**reen or grey utility boxes, known as pad-mounted or padmount transformers, are part of the supply chain that helps provide power to your neighborhood. Those boxes sit on an easement, which allows us access to them.

What are the green boxes for? Their job is to step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes.

Please do not paint, enhance, block or otherwise obstruct padmount transformers. By respecting all utility equipment, including meters and transformers, you can help keep the power on and your local utility workers safe.

As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, Jo-Carroll Energy and Safe Electricity remind you of these safety tips:

- Do not plant shrubs and trees close to green box transformers or other utility equipment. Limiting or

restricting access to the box in your yard by us could delay restoration work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as four feet of clearance on the other three sides.

- Contact us with questions about landscaping around or installing fencing near a padmount transformer (or any other changes) to learn what is allowable.
- Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it or any other type of utility equipment appears to be damaged.
- Call 811 prior to digging around a transformer and respect the clearance requirements noted above. If you dig near a transformer (even if it is beyond the

clearance requirements), you could inadvertently hit a live underground cable. Always call 811 prior to any digging.

- Keep a clear path to the transformer. Although the transformer seems like it is in "your yard," it is technically on an easement, and our workers need clear access to it to maintain equipment and keep power running smoothly.

Contact us with any questions or concerns about the safety of padmount transformers. Always teach children that they should not sit on, open or play around the green boxes.



## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.

Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



illinois1call.com

### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.







# Sand Prairie

Connecting our members to the world.®

800-858-5522

connectSP.com

793 US 20 West, Elizabeth IL 61028

## Sand Prairie fiber neighborhoods status

Sand Prairie fiber internet service is now available in 14 different polygons or fiber neighborhoods across our service territory.

- ▶ Elizabeth: ELZ1-6, 8-9
- ▶ Galena: G0, G8 & 15
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake: 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.**

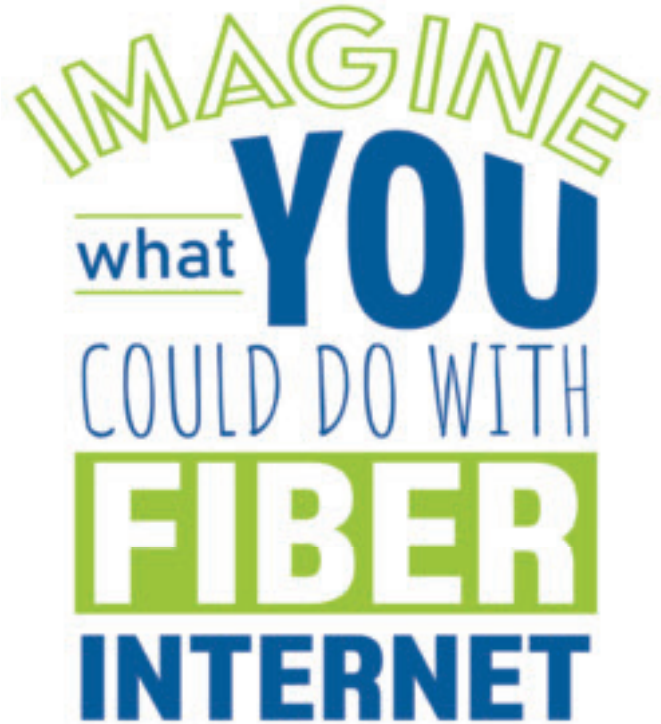
### Under construction

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

- ▶ Sinsinawa: MEN4 pre-construction
- ▶ Chestnut: CHT1 construction
- ▶ Galena: G16 & G18 pre-construction
- ▶ The Galena Territory: GT10 construction
- ▶ Elizabeth: ELZ 10 pre-construction
- ▶ Savanna: SAV11 pre-construction
- ▶ York: YRK 1 pre-construction
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake: CYN1 & CYN7 pre-construction

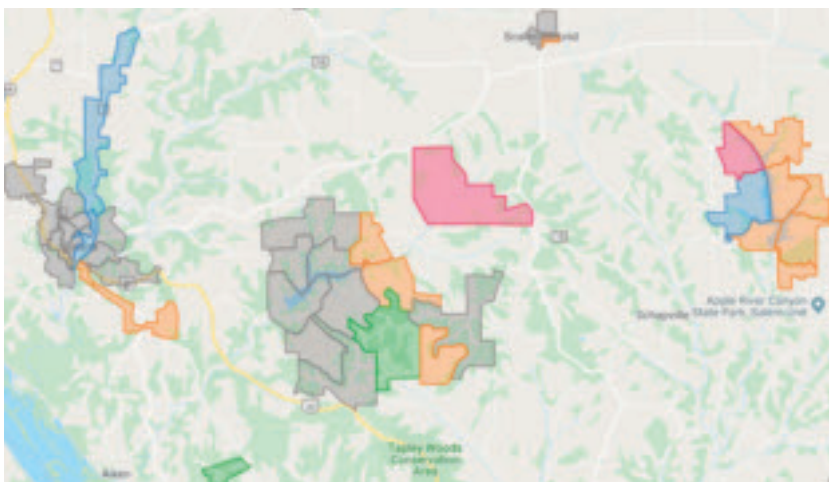
### Sign up open

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: G13 & G20
- ▶ The Galena Territory: GT 5-6 & 13
- ▶ Chestnut: CHT2
- ▶ Elizabeth, ELZ11
- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake: CYN 2-5
- ▶ Fenton: FTN 1
- ▶ Scales Mound: SM1
- ▶ Menomine, MEN1



## 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](http://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.