

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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



Support for Small Businesses

Neighbors looking out for neighbors. People working for a common good. It's part of the cooperative spirit that's always been one of the best things about our local communities. As we face the uncertain times of the pandemic, we know we can't do it alone – we're all in this together. And we are stronger and better for it.

As your member-owned cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy is honored to power our communities when it matters most. To support organizations that are providing essential, critical services, we increased our donation amounts to area emergency services and food pantries. We have raised the amount in our CoBank Matching Grants to communities, totaling \$20,000 this year. To assist, we worked with the United Way to obtain \$30,000 in additional pledges for our Neighbor to Neighbor Fund. I am very proud to lead a company and team that is community-focused.

I am also very proud of you, our members. I read the social media posts and the news articles that highlight your generosity and concern for community.

A big shout out to Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) and our local banks for their assistance to local businesses in educating them on relief programs and being a liaison between the business and state and federal agencies.

Our small businesses are hurting right now. The last figure, as of



CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

publication deadline, was that 20 percent of small businesses in our service territory might not survive. That is alarming.

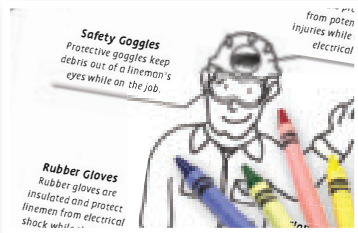
Local and regional government agencies are thinking of ways to soften the blow, but many of our area small businesses are struggling. So, what can we do?

Many businesses have products and specials posted online and offer curbside pickup even if their storefront is closed. Below is a list of a few easy ways that we can all personally support the businesses in the towns where we live:

- Purchase goods locally, where you didn't before. Shop and order pickup or delivery services from local grocery stores, lumber yards, feed stores and pharmacies instead of "big box" stores. Order a pick-up meal or get delivery from a local restaurant.
- Buy gift certificates from businesses for use in the future.
- Share information about supporting the local businesses on your social media pages.
- Follow local businesses on social media; like, comment and share their posts.

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JCE receives a \$30,000 grant



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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

March 26, 2020

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via phone conference on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by President and CEO Mike Casper.

Written reports which included the AIEC, APGA, Dairyland (DPC) and Prairie Power (PPI) were reviewed prior to the Board Meeting.

Policy 136 – Policy 136/ Member Rates/ Requests for Different Rates – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to repeal Board Policy 136.

Financial Operating Report – CFO Woods noted that revenue was down \$875,000 for the year due to weaker demand caused by mild weather, with little corresponding decrease in the cost of purchased power. Operating expenses are down approximately \$200,000, while margins are approximately \$465,000 below budget.

Board Issues and Action Items

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 Margin Allocations of approximately \$2.234 million.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to suspend late payment fees and penalties for electric, natural gas, and broadband services through May 1st, 2020, or later if necessary.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve an emergency resolution to postpone the annual meeting from June until August, 2020 and to move back all dates in the bylaws for notification and director elections fixed to the annual meeting date accordingly.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve a resolution to temporarily enable the President & CEO to take actions on an emergency basis

through the duration of the state's disaster proclamation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the USDA RUS Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Agreement Resolution. Director Mattingley abstained.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Connect Illinois 2020 Application Resolution.

Operations Update – Written report only.

External Relations Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed current and pending state and federal bills dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, including changes to FMLA and sick leave provisions. Allendorf also highlighted the work that Northwest Illinois Economic Development is performing with local businesses, helping them navigate and apply for the myriad programs that have become available.

Executive Session – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

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.

Neighbor to Neighbor Grant

JCE receives funding for Neighbor to Neighbor Care program



Jo-Carroll Energy has received a \$30,000 grant from the Northwest Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund for the cooperative's Neighbor to Neighbor Care program. **Kevin P. Nicolini**

"This grant couldn't come at a more critical time, as members throughout the service area are receiving their last heating bills of the winter months," said Jennifer Meyer, Jo-Carroll Energy's vice president of member services. "Many are facing economic hardships, and energy security, or accruing bills at the cooperative, is the last thing we want our membership to be worried about."

The grant to Jo-Carroll Energy will be used to assist cooperative members residing in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. Neighbor to Neighbor funds are administered for Jo-Carroll Energy by the respective area agencies serving each county.

It was one of 30 emergency needs grants awarded to nonprofit organizations based throughout Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll counties by the Freeport Community Foundation (FCF) and the United Way of Northwest Illinois (UWNWIL). Together the two agencies awarded \$205,000 in emergency needs grants.

Funds supporting UWNWIL grants included \$100,000 awarded to the agency partnership from the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund and an additional \$5,000 from private donations. The additional \$100,000 emergency relief funding came from the Freeport Community Foundation's Community Needs/Matt Marvin Unrestricted Fund.

Jo-Carroll's grant was distributed by the UWNWIL.

"It is clear that all of the agencies that applied for COVID-19 grant funding are struggling to continue meeting even the most basic human needs during this challenging environment," Freeport Community Foundation Board President Brad Stewart said in a press release. "Yet, despite their own respective operational challenges, the applying organizations presented programs outlining numerous ways to support their neighboring residents throughout northwest Illinois."

Funds from the NWIL COVID-19 Response Fund are intended to benefit nonprofits and programs serving the most vulnerable populations in Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll counties affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Neighbor to Neighbor Care program assists members

Jo-Carroll Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Care program works in tandem with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Any residential member needing assistance can receive Neighbor to Neighbor funds whether they received LIHEAP or not. The funds are administered by the area agencies that also handle LIHEAP.

The following agencies serve our members in their respective counties:

- Jo Daviess County - Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA): 1-815-232-3141
- Carroll and Whiteside Counties - Tri-County Opportunities Council: 1800-323-5434
- Henry County-Project NOW: 1-309-852-4565

Members also may contribute to the Neighbor to Neighbor fund.

Anyone who would like to directly assist a family member, neighbor or friend may also do so through a gift of energy credits. Please contact us for more information at 800-858-5522 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or through email at info@jocarroll.com.

Concern for community

We ask that members please contact our office if they are unable to make their payment on time. We are working with members (including businesses) on a case-by-case basis on options and assistance that may be available.

We can also provide information and resources on how to save energy to possibly lower your energy bills. This is especially important as people are spending more time at home. Our energy advisor can provide suggestions for our residential and business members. Please call John Scott at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339.

Picture this, your photos in print

Jo-Carroll Energy is looking for entries in its 2020 Photo Contest, with winners to be featured in the 2021 Jo-Carroll Energy Calendar.

We're looking for images that represent life in the cooperative's service territory. The subject of your photo can depict the beautiful scenery and local landscapes of our area, interesting structures, livestock or wildlife or what you think depicts life in our communities and rural area.

All photos must be the original work of the entrant and

must be taken within the cooperative's service territory.

The contest is open to all active members of the cooperative; entries will be accepted from the sons and daughters of members, also.

From the submissions, we choose 12 photos to appear on the calendar pages along with front, back and honorable mention photos.



Deadline for entries is June 30. Complete details and the 2020 entry form can be found

on jocarroll.com. For more information, please contact Peggy Francomb, manager of communications and marketing at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218; or pfrancomb@jocarroll.com.

Show your child's artistic talents

Have them enter our summer coloring contest

Looking for something for your children to do? Have them enter Jo-Carroll Energy's Summer Coloring Contest.

We'll select a winner in each of three age categories – ages 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10. The winners will receive a set of school supplies for the fall school year and other fun prizes. We traditionally donate five energy-related children's books to the child's community library, also.

Coloring sheets, along with the entry form and rules, can be downloaded at jocarroll.com.

Only one entry per child is allowed and each entry will be placed into one of the three age categories. Artwork will be judged based on creativity, originality and use of color. All artwork will not be returned except upon request, and will be displayed in our Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo offices.

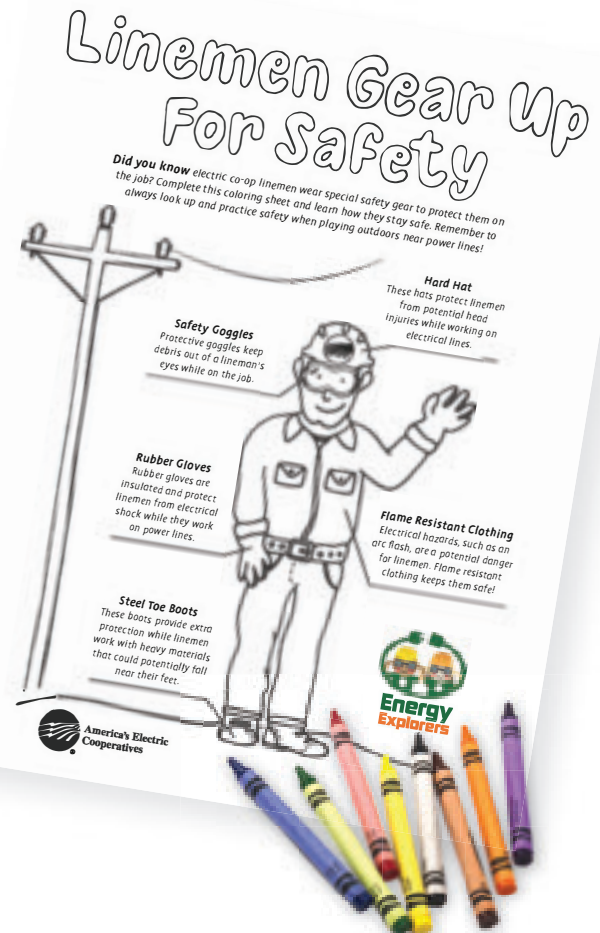
Mail or deliver completed forms and artwork to:

Jo-Carroll Energy
Attn: Jamie Kluzek
P.O. Box 390
Elizabeth, IL 61028

Or

by email to jkluzek@jocarroll.com

Entries must be received by the contest deadline of July 24, 2020.



JCE names Youth Tour winners

Two high school students were chosen to represent Jo-Carroll Energy in the annual Youth to Washington Tour. In an unprecedented situation, the annual event has been cancelled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association due to concerns over COVID-19.

Despite the cancellation, Jo-Carroll Energy would like to acknowledge the two students selected to represent the cooperative. They are Maya Dickerson of Galena and Savanna Reisner of Geneseo.

Jo-Carroll had already selected its recipients when this announcement was



Maya Dickerson

made by our state and national associations. Both students will be offered the opportunity to attend the 2021 Youth Tour.

Jo-Carroll Energy sends two representatives to



Savanna Reisner

our national's capital each year as part of the annual Youth Tour. During the trip, students visit historic monuments and national sites and learn about the cooperative business model.

Support for Small Businesses

Continued from 20A

I want to emphasize that if you are out in public, supporting these businesses, please follow social-distancing rules, good hygiene procedures, and wear a face

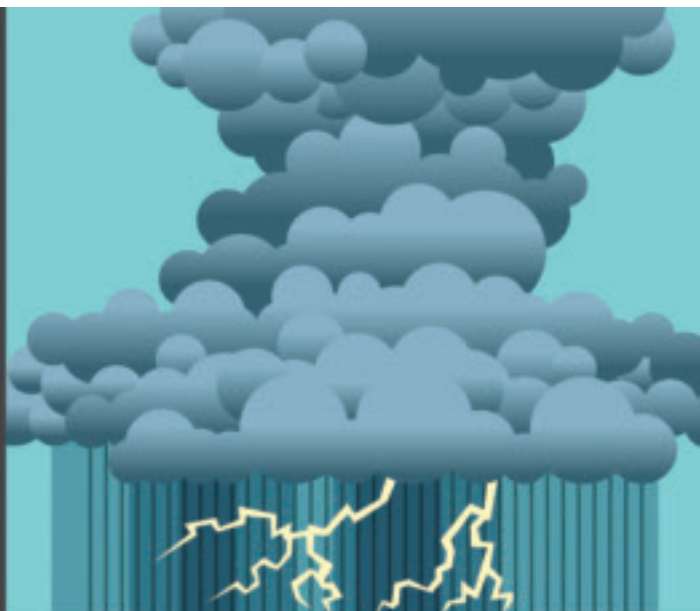
covering. Your health and safety are of the utmost importance while supporting local, so please take all the necessary precautions. These precautions are for you and

your family's safety as well as the people around you.

Thank you!

Shocking Facts About Lightning

- There are 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes annually in the U.S.
- Every year, 300 Americans are struck by lightning.
- Of those struck, 30 are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities.



SMALL SAVINGS LEAD TO BIG ONES



At Jo-Carroll Energy we help you find more ways to save energy, save money and help the environment. So small savings today lead to big savings tomorrow. Contact John Scott, our energy advisor, at 800-858-5522 ext.1339 to learn more.

Do the **SUMMER SHIFT** to save energy, money

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. You can conserve energy and save money when you do the Summer Shift.

The Summer Shift means moving flexible electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. during the months of June, July and August. This helps keep electric rates affordable by purchasing less power when electricity is in high demand and most expensive and shifting the demand to times of day when electricity costs less to purchase.

One of the best parts of the Summer Shift is that everyone can participate.

Set the thermostat to 78

degrees during the summer and raise it a few degrees when no one is home. Utilizing a programmable thermostat means one less thing to remember!

By starting a load of laundry after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible), a member could get a load (or two) of clothes washed and hung up to dry overnight before going to bed. Or wash clothes first thing in the morning and use solar energy to dry your clothes outside on a clothesline during the day.

Start the dishwasher after 7 p.m., then open the door when the "dry" cycle begins to let dishes air dry overnight.

Shut off lights. Longer days

have arrived, so utilize the extra daylight to delay turning on lights around the house.

Balance closing curtains to keep the home cool with using LED lights in lamps. Be sure to turn off lights when exiting a room.

Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner at least once a week with sandwiches and other foods that do not require a microwave or stove to prepare.

When you do the Summer Shift, you help maintain affordable electricity rates. By taking a walk, waiting to do laundry or just opting for a picnic or barbecue once or twice a week, you are doing the Summer Shift.

Ways to make your home office energy efficient

Working from home, even temporarily, may increase your energy use. You're spending more time using a computer, lights and other appliances at home instead of in your workplace. By improving the energy efficiency of your home office equipment, you can save on energy costs without hampering productivity.

Make sure computers and other office equipment are turned off when not in use for an extended period.

Many electronic devices continue to use power even after turned off. Connect the equipment to an advanced power strip, which automatically shuts off power to unused devices.

Set office equipment, such as printers and scanners, to automatically switch to sleep mode when not in use. It saves energy and the equipment will stay

cooler, which helps extend its life.

Use a laptop instead of a desktop. Laptops use less than one-third the energy of a desktop computer.

Adjust the thermostat to the unoccupied setting. This avoids wasting energy by conditioning the entire house while you're occupying only a small portion of it. Use a ceiling fan to maintain comfort.

Use task lighting with energy-efficient lamps. A desk lamp uses less energy than whole-room lighting.

When purchasing new office equipment, make sure it's ENERGY STAR qualified. ENERGY STAR products use less energy than standard models. According to the U.S.



Department of Energy, if every home office product purchased in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR qualified, Americans would save an estimated \$75 million a year in energy costs.

Don't overload your home's electrical system

With power strips and outlet converters (a multiple outlet "bar" plugged into an existing outlet), we can plug in multiple items in or near the same outlet.

But just because we can, does not mean we *should*.

Drawing too much power from an outlet can overload your home's electrical system. Depending on how your home is wired, you may get away with it — or not. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but this isn't guaranteed.

The results of overloading a circuit could range from a damaged appliance to starting a fire. When too much electrical current flows through a circuit, things can overheat.

Whether it is a wire, an outlet or any other part along the electrical path, excess heat can cause serious problems.

Follow these safety tips to prevent overloading a circuit:

Do not plug too many things into one outlet, extension cord, power strip, multi-outlet device or outlets on the same circuit.

Look for loose connections or damaged or corroded wires, which can also cause an overload.

If you continually upgrade your home with more electrical demands (lighting, appliances, electronics), your home's circuits may not be able to handle the increased load.

Plug in a space heater to a dedicated outlet (with nothing else plugged in) and do not

plug it into an extension cord.

Major appliances (refrigerator, stove, washing machine) should be plugged into their own outlet since they draw a lot of power. For smaller appliances, do not plug more than two into one outlet.

Know how much power you draw; experts recommend no more than 1,500 watts per outlet or circuit.

Consult a qualified electrician to assess your home's electrical system, especially in an older home.

When in doubt, have a qualified electrician assess your home, and mention any odd symptoms you may notice, like flickering or dimming lights, warm or discolored outlets or cover plates, and frequent blown fuses or tripped circuits.



2020 JCE Annual Meeting rescheduled to Aug. 22

The 2020 Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting of Members has been rescheduled to Saturday, Aug. 22 due to concerns regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. at the old high school gymnasium in the village of Elizabeth. Please note the change of time and location.

The meeting was originally set for Wednesday, June 12.

"The health and safety of our members and employees is the utmost importance to us," said Mike Casper, JCE president and CEO. "We understand that many of you look forward to the annual meeting each year, and this decision was not made lightly. We must do our part to help during this pandemic. Rescheduling and making some changes to the annual meeting is an important step the cooperative can take."

Some changes are being made to the meeting format because we do not know what the state of the pandemic will be in August. These changes are being made to protect our members and employees from unnecessary risk.

- Attendance at the meeting will be capped at 50 individual members physically present. This number will allow us to meet the quorum required to conduct the business of the annual meeting.
- Those in attendance will be asked to follow IDPH guidance at the time regarding personal protective equipment and social distancing. Plans are being made to stream the annual meeting live online.
- RSVPs will be requested from those planning to attend the meeting in person. Information on how to

RSVP will be sent to members via bill inserts, email and in next month's issue. Information will be provided to register for the online streaming, also.

- The meeting will be condensed to the business session only.
- Registration will begin at 10 a.m., one hour prior to the meeting.
- Regrettably, a meal will not be served and attendance prizes will not be distributed this year. We are planning to give door prizes drawn from those in attendance in person and online. Details on how to enter the drawing will be detailed in a future issue.
- For everyone's safety, please remain at home if you are feeling sick or have flu-like symptoms.

Director elections

Jo-Carroll Energy director Districts 3, 6 and 9 are up for election. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

June 23 is the deadline for candidates to file petitions for nomination. Nomination petitions are available on our website at jocarroll.com.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure is found in the bylaws posted on the website.

If two or more candidates file in a district, ballots and voting instructions are mailed to members in that district. A member votes for one candidate either

by mail or through a special election website.

If only one candidate files, no ballots are mailed. Election is by vote of acclamation.

All eligible candidates will be listed on jocarroll.com and the August issue of Hi-Lines.