

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



## 20C

### Annual meeting

2020 JCE Annual Meeting set for Aug. 22



## 20D-E

### Scholarships

Recipients of 2020 JCE scholarships announced



## 20G

### Efficiency

Do the SUMMER SHIFT to save energy, money

## Focused on reliability

In times of uncertainty, we are here for you.

Looking at Jo-Carroll Energy on a map, you see boundaries, grids and lines marking our districts, service areas and infrastructure. A closer look reveals the homes, businesses and farms that make up the communities we serve.

In a community, families take care of families, neighbors watch out for neighbors; we work together and rely on each other to get through good times and bad. That's a lot like your co-op.

We are community focused, doing our part to help our area from securing 24/7 energy sources to connecting homes, businesses and communities with fiber internet. We are committed to keeping the lights on, natural gas flowing, and internet connected to your home or business.

Especially in times of uncertainty, we want you to have peace of mind when you need energy or internet service. Among many other things, electricity keeps your phones and tablets charged and our internet service helps you connect with businesses, services, friends, and family down the street and around the world.

As your local cooperative, we are committed to our mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable services to you, our members.

Reliability is having our own crews and dispatchers on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide the essential services you rely and depend on. In these difficult times, reliability also includes taking the appropriate measures to ensure our employees



## CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

have the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and procedures in place to remain healthy. We have been particularly focused on safeguarding our employees' health so that we can continue to serve you and respond to outages safely and quickly.

We greatly appreciate and understand our responsibilities to you. Even as our world changes, we remain focused on ensuring our actions and future plans are in alignment with yours. We appreciate the feedback that we receive from you through surveys and other means. We continue to listen and are focused on stabilizing your rates through growth and operational improvements, all to enhance the value of the services that we provide to you. We also work closely with our generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) to keep safety, reliability, sustainability and affordability at the forefront of the decision-making process.

Whether a severe storm or a pandemic, we are committed to being here for you – our valued members – and our communities. Please reach out at 800-858-5522 if you have questions regarding your bill, energy efficiency tips or just have feedback you'd like to share with us.

One thing that is certain in uncertain times – our commitment to you and the local communities we serve. Power On.

## 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

April 22, 2020

*The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via phone conference on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9 a.m.*

*A Safety Moment was provided by Director Joe Mattingley.*

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

**2019 Independent Auditor's Report** – A summary of the report was presented by an independent audit firm, which issued a clean, unmodified opinion. There were no deficiencies or journal entries and no issues with accounting policies, management practices, or the information provided by staff. The Independent Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for Dec. 31, 2019 and 2018 are located on the Jo-Carroll Energy website within the "My Co-op" tab under "Financials."

**Policies 136.1 and 136.2** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve as is Policies 136.1 and 136.2, Net Metering for accounts established prior to Aug. 24, 2016, and Policy 136.2 Net Metering for accounts established after Aug. 24, 2016.

**Financial Operating Report** – CFO Woods noted that the milder winter and spring temperatures had a significant impact on revenue. Operating costs were approximately \$15.3 million, compared to a budget of \$16.7 million. Controllable expenses were approximately \$13.8 million vs. a budgeted amount of \$14.1 million. Margins for the year are approximately (\$667,000) vs. a budgeted amount of \$168,000.

President and CEO Casper discussed the implementation of the Business Continuity Pandemic Plan. Casper noted that most employees are working remotely, having successfully transformed the way Jo-Carroll Energy does business with only minor notable changes to member service. Casper also provided an update on two fiber grants for which Jo-Carroll recently applied.

### Board Issues and Action Items

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the RC-1 Rate Credit Rider.

**Operations Update** – Kyle Buros, Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager noted that 82 percent of the workforce is working from home or remotely. Buros explained that strict social distancing and sanitation rules have been put in place for JCE employees. Buros noted that while the cooperative's load is down significantly, no major disruptions have occurred with the cooperative's supply chain and construction and maintenance are continuing. In-home broadband installs have been suspended, but alternatives are being pursued. Strict procedures have been implemented for any employee that has to enter a member's home or business.

**External Relations Update** – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed the various relief programs made available as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Allendorf also noted that regional businesses are hurting because of the statewide shut-down. Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) continues to help business owners navigate through the process of applying for programs that have become available. Allendorf also discussed plans for an alternate date for the cooperative's annual meeting, which will most likely be held in August and significantly scaled back in accordance with health guidance for gatherings.

**Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:10 a.m.

**Out of Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 10:16 a.m.

**Action Resulting from Executive Session** – None.

**Other Business** – None.

### Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

# 2020 JCE Annual Meeting set for Aug. 22

The 2020 Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting of Members is set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Village Municipal Gym (former River Ridge High School gym), 310 North West Street in Elizabeth.

In-person attendance at the meeting will be capped at 50 individual members. This number allows us to meet the quorum required to conduct business of the annual meeting.

Members attending are required to register in advance. Registration will open on July 20. Members may register online at [jocarroll.com/annual-meeting](http://jocarroll.com/annual-meeting) or by calling 800-858-5522, ext. 1208.

Plans are being finalized to live stream the meeting. Details will be included in the August issue.

Members attending in person may begin checking in at 10 a.m., one hour prior to the meeting. The meeting itself will be condensed to the business session only. Due to the abbreviated nature of this year's annual meeting, no bylaw revisions are being presented for consideration.

We will not have our usual premeeting activities or displays. Regrettably, a meal will not be served and attendance bill credits will not be distributed this year.

We respectfully request for everyone's safety that you remain at home if you are feeling ill or have flu-like symptoms the day of the meeting.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with the official notice of the annual meeting. Information normally found in the Annual Report will be included in the August Hi-Lines.

## **Submit a question by Aug. 14 to be included in bill credit door prize drawings!**

Members can enter for a door prize drawing by submitting questions in advance of the annual meeting. Be sure to include your name and address. Questions will be answered at the annual meeting as time permits.

To enter, submit a question by mail to Jo-Carroll Energy, Annual Meeting Door Prize, PO Box 319, Elizabeth, IL 61028; by email to [communications@jocarroll.com](mailto:communications@jocarroll.com) with the subject line Annual Meeting Door Prize, or through the form on the annual meeting page at [jocarroll.com/annual-meeting](http://jocarroll.com/annual-meeting). For this year, because the date of the meeting was changed to late summer when students might be away at college, drawings for Director's Scholarships are being held prior to the annual meeting. Students who submitted applications prior to the deadline were invited to a Zoom meeting for the drawing for the scholarships. (Names of the recipients will appear in a future issue of Hi-Lines).

## **Election process**

Director districts up for election this year are Districts 3, 6 and 9. The deadline for petition

nominations was June 23 (after the deadline for this issue).

If two or more candidates file for the director position in a district, an election by ballot is held for that district. Ballots and voting instructions will be mailed the week of July 20 only to members residing in a district where there are two or more candidates. Jo-Carroll Energy is using a hybrid voting method that will allow members to vote either by mail or through a special election website. Only one vote per membership counts. The co-op is working with Survey & Ballot Systems to conduct the election.

If voting by paper ballot, members will complete their vote as usual. Completed ballots will be returned in the provided envelope to SBS, who will deliver the ballots to Jo-Carroll headquarters the day prior to the annual meeting.

If voting online, members will be able to access the voting portal through a website using a unique ballot ID and election passcode. This information and instructions will be included in the ballot mailing. SBS processes and tabulates all ballots, both paper and online. Biographies of candidates will be included in the mailing.

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

All eligible candidates will be listed on [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) and in the August issue of Hi-Lines.

# Jo-Carroll Energy awards 2020 scholarships

Jo-Carroll Energy is committed to serving our members and communities. Each year the co-op awards a number of scholarships to students from within our service area. Please join us in congratulating these young men and women who are the recipients of awards from the JCE Scholarship program.



**Emily Hinrichs of  
Chadwick**

*High School: American  
School of Correspondence  
College & planned course of study:  
Sauk Valley Community College, History*



**Kathryn Walters  
of Elizabeth**

*High School: River Ridge High School  
College & planned course of study:  
St. Ambrose University,  
biology/pre-dentistry*



**Haley Brudi  
of Stockton**

*High School: Stockton  
College & planned course of study:  
Highland Community College,  
physical therapy/nutrition*



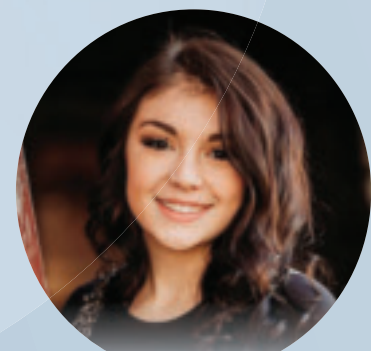
**Hannah Foltz  
of Thomson**

*High School: West Carroll High School  
College & planned course of study:  
Highland Community College/University  
of Dubuque, Elementary Education*



**Sara Norman  
of Fulton**

*High School: Fulton  
College & planned course of study:  
Olivet Nazarene University,  
architectural engineering*



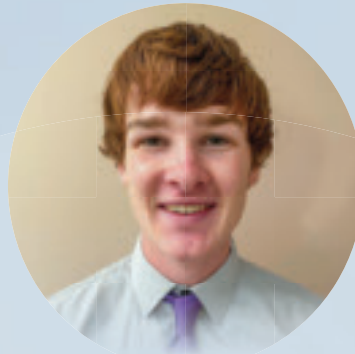
**Ryleigh Haring  
of Savanna**

*High School: West Carroll  
College & planned course of study:  
Clinton Community College, nursing*



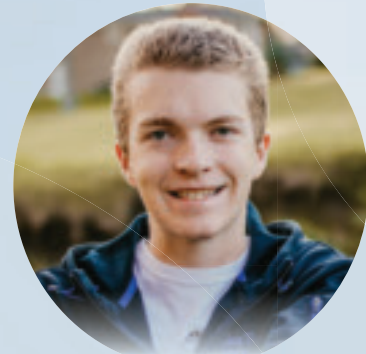
### **Elizabeth Eaton of Galena**

*High School: Galena High School  
College & planned course of study:  
The University of Iowa,  
secondary education (high school)*



### **Jacob McConnell of Geneseo**

*High School: Geneseo  
College & planned course of study:  
Bradley University,  
mechanical engineering*



### **Joshua Wiebenga of Fulton**

*High School: Unity Christian  
College & planned course of study:  
Morrison Institute of Technology,  
computer aided design*

## **Director's Scholarships**

Winners of the 2020 Director's Scholarships will be recognized in a future issue of Hi-Lines. These scholarships are normally awarded through a drawing at the Annual Meeting of Members with recipients and at least one of their parents

in attendance. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restricted attendance at the annual meeting (now set for Aug. 22), a special virtual meeting with applicants was held to conduct the drawing. All JCE scholarships are funded through unclaimed

capital credits and the generous donation of capital credits by members. More information about the scholarship program can be found at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com). Applications for 2021 will be available in the fall. **Bradley Offenheiser**

## **Jo-Carroll Energy awards CoBank grants**

Jo-Carroll Energy designated four community groups as recipients of a matching grant opportunity through the CoBank Sharing Success program for 2020. This is one more grant than the co-op has awarded in previous years.

Based in Denver, Colo., CoBank is a cooperative bank that serves rural infrastructure providers. The Sharing Success program is designed to celebrate the vital role that their customers, including co-ops like Jo-Carroll, play in their communities. CoBank partners with those customers to

support causes and organizations, make a positive impact and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

Selected to receive Sharing Success matching grants in the Jo-Carroll service area were:

- Savanna Police Department - \$6,070 for a Watchguard video camera system.
- Chadwick Fire Department - \$6,100 for a positive pressure fan and tools.
- Antique Engine & Tractor Show (Geneseo) - \$2,500 to create a learning center and exhibit about food and farms.

- Jo Daviess County Workshop - \$4,500 for two accessible doors.

CoBank launched the Sharing Success program in 2012 as a way to highlight the International Year of Cooperatives. It is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities. To qualify for a grant from Jo-Carroll Energy, an organization must be a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or government entity.

# BE SMART around electricity inside your home

Many safety hazards are obvious and can be seen, smelled or heard: that wrinkled rug you could trip on, spoiled food that could make you sick, icy pavement that could cause a fall or a weather siren announcing a tornado. Electrical hazards, however, are often undetectable. While some you can see, smell or feel (outlets that are warm to the touch or lights that flicker), many others you cannot. Jo-Carroll Energy and Safe Electricity offer these electrical safety tips to keep in mind in your home.

- **Cell phones make strange bedfellows.** Don't sleep or lounge in bed with a charging cell phone or other device. This can cause burns to skin or bedding to ignite. This also goes for devices that are warm to the touch but not plugged in.
- **Do not use cheap chargers.** Instead, use the original charging components that came with cell phones or other electronics. When it's time to replace them, spend extra to buy brand-specific chargers. Using cheaply made generic chargers with electronics can cause injury (shock/burns) or even fire.



- **Charging devices and water don't mix.** Do not use a charging cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into the bathtub.
- **Do not overload outlets or circuits.** It's tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or circuit but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring. It could also start a fire. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but that's never guaranteed.

- **Do not use portable heaters unattended** or around small children or pets. Do not place flammable items near or on a space heater.
- **Ditch that old electric blanket.** Do not use a 10-year-old electric blanket, one that has frayed or visible wires in the blanket, or one that has a damaged electrical cord or plug.
- **Test your GFCI buttons monthly.** Put a reminder in your phone or mark it on your calendar each month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working.
- **Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home.** If lights flicker, outlets are warm or you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where it's coming from, there may be problems with your home's electrical system. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, have a qualified electrician assess your home's electrical system.

## 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.

## Make a difference when you do the **SUMMER SHIFT**

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. Each summer, Jo-Carroll Energy encourages members to reduce their energy between the hours 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the summer months.

By shifting energy use from these times, you'll help save energy and help your co-op maintain affordable electricity rates.

Here are a few tips for ways you can "Do the Summer Shift."

- Set the thermostat to 78 degrees during the summer when no one is home. Using a programmable thermostat means one less thing to remember.
- Delay starting a load of laundry until after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible). Or, wash clothes first thing in the morning and dry your clothes outside on a clothes line during the day.



- Program the dishwasher to avoid running it between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Shut off lights when you are not using them.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner a few days a week with sandwiches and other foods that do not require a stove or microwave to prepare.



Jo-Carroll Energy will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. For outages and emergencies, please call 800-858-5522; crews will be on standby. View your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com), by calling 800-858-5522 or with the Jo-Carroll Energy app.



# Imagine WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH SAND PRAIRIE FIBER



## STATUS OF FIBER COMMUNITIES

### SIGN UP PHASE

Apple Canyon Lake.....	CYN2	57%
.....	CYN3	67%
.....	CYN4	76%
Elizabeth.....	ELZ11	55%
Chestnut.....	CHT2	68%
Galena.....	G13	50%
Galena Territory.....	GT6	51%
.....	GT13	85%
Fenton.....	FTN1	50%
Menominee.....	MEN1	66%

### PRE-CONSTRUCTION

Apple Canyon Lake.....	CYN1, CYN5
Galena.....	G16, G18, G20
Galena Territory.....	GT5
Savanna.....	SAV11
York.....	YRK1

### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Apple Canyon Lake.....	CYN7
Chestnut.....	CHT1
Galena Territory.....	GT10
Scales Mound.....	SM1
Sinsinawa.....	MEN4

### SCHEDULE INSTALL

East Dubuque.....	ED1
-------------------	-----

### FIBER AVAILABLE

Apple Canyon Lake.....	CYN6
Elizabeth.....	ELZ1-6, ELZ8-9
Galena.....	G0, G8, G15
High Ridge.....	G17

Status as of press deadline.

Sign-Up  
Today!

### INTEREST PHASE

EAST DUBUQUE.....	ED2-9
GALENA.....	G1-7, 9-12
GALENA TERRITORY.....	GT1
.....	GT7-9, GT11
MT CARROLL.....	MTC1-8
SAVANNA.....	SAV1-10
SCALES MOUND.....	SM2-3
STOCKTON.....	STK1-5



Tell us you want fiber  
in your neighborhood!

[connectSP.com/iwantfiber](http://connectSP.com/iwantfiber)

Visit the fiber communities page on [connectsp.com](http://connectsp.com) to track progress.

