

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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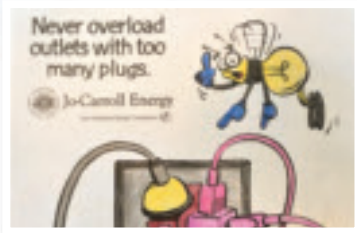
Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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Coloring contest

Winners receive school supplies



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Community solar

Work begins on two solar projects



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Safety

Make time for safety during harvest

Make your voice heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Jo-Carroll Energy members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sep. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Jo-Carroll Energy board members, which you choose through a democratic process, provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the communities they represent.



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and you, the members we serve. Jo-Carroll Energy board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so we can stay on course and ensure we are in sync with the communities we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

Coverage of our 2020 Annual Meeting will appear in the October Hi-Lines along with answers to questions submitted by members. You can watch a recording of the meeting at jocarroll.com.

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 - May 27, 2020

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via video phone conference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 9 a.m. A Safety Moment was provided by Director Pat Smith.

AIEC Report – Chairman Senn informed the board that the AIEC has cancelled its annual meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Voting delegates will participate in an on-line business meeting.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report – Director Mattingley discussed DPC's capital credits program. DPC is currently searching for their next CEO and have narrowed down their search to the top 15 candidates. Their current CEO Barbara Nick is set to retire in July.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the most recent generation numbers.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed the latest topics within the gas industry. Carroll also noted that a decision has been made to transition the 2020 APGA Annual Conference into a virtual conference.

Policy 137 – A Motion to approve Policy 137 (Privacy Principles for Member Consumer Information) as is was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

Financial Operating Report – CFO Woods provided a summary of the financial operating report, noting there has been a loss of load due to mild temperatures and the pandemic. Operating costs were approximately \$17,628,909 million, compared to a budget of \$18,108,293 million. Revenue, YTD, is approximately \$19.1 million compared to a budgeted amount of \$21.1 million. YTD margins are approximately (\$1.48 million), compared to a budgeted amount of (\$165,000).

Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services, discussed the accrual process for outstanding balances noting that there would be no late payment penalties and no disconnects happening at this time, as we are voluntarily observing the Illinois Commerce Commission's (ICC) moratorium on late fees and disconnects, which is in effect until the end of June.

Board Issues and Action Items

Chris Allendorf provided the new date for

the Annual Meeting, noting that it had been changed to August 22 and will be taking place at the old high school gym in Elizabeth. There will be restrictions in place according to the public health requirements established by the state, including no more than 50 people present. Staff is working on an online method for members to watch the meeting remotely. The meeting itself will be condensed to a business session. Staff is working on alternatives to award the Director scholarships, instead of awarding them at the annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the date change for the Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the changes made to Policy 411 to allow for an additional reset date in November, at the member's discretion, for renewable energy bill credits.

By acclamation, Director Kuhns was selected to serve as Jo-Carroll's PPI director and Stanger was selected as the alternate.

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager provided an update on the status of the cooperative's fiber expansion. In-home installs have resumed with the assistance of an outside contractor. Annual pole inspections have started in Galena, Elizabeth, and Mt. Carroll. Buros also noted that Jo-Carroll Energy will have its own phased re-entry plan for employees to safely return to work. Buros reiterated that we are continuing to follow state and local guidelines.

Regulatory Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, discussed how local and state government are dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Allendorf discussed how Governor Pritzker has modified the "Restore Illinois" plan and that the entire state will likely be moving to Phase 3 of the plan at the end of the month.

Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:38 a.m.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was

made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Resume of Minutes - June 24, 2020

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via video phone conference on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. A Safety Moment was provided by Director Russ Holesinger.

AIEC Report – Chairman Senn discussed the most recent AIEC meeting he attended and noted the challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on cooperatives. Senn noted the voting delegates will participate in the AIEC Annual Meeting, to be held virtually on July 23rd. Senn also remarked that Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie will be receiving a public service award.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed the latest topics within the gas industry, including biomass and the renewable industry.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report – Director Mattingley announced that Brent Ridge will be the new CEO for Dairyland Power Cooperative and provided an overview of his extensive background. Mattingley also commented on the accomplishments of outgoing CEO, Barbara Nick. Mattingley discussed the early retirement of DPC Capital Credits and strategies that will support Jo-Carroll Energy's fiber initiatives.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the most recent generation numbers. President and CEO Casper discussed the PPI "Virtual Annual Meeting" and noted that Jo-Carroll Energy Directors Bob Kuhns and Marcy Stanger will remain to serve as Director and Alternate Director on the PPI board.

Policy 137.1 – A Motion to approve Policy 137.1 (Identity Theft Prevention – Red Flags) was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

Financial Operating Report – CFO Woods provided a summary of the financial operating report. Total Operations and Maintenance costs were approximately \$21,226,786 million, compared to a budget of \$21,828,610 million. May YTD revenue is \$23,139,845 compared to a budgeted amount of approximately \$25,367,383 million. YTD margins are approximately \$(1.7 million) vs a budgeted amount of \$(400,000). By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services, discussed the arrears process for outstanding balances and the funds that may be available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help those accounts. Meyer noted that disconnect dates may begin with the start of the Governor's IL Phase IV of the re-entry plan, after the 30-day grace period.

Casper provided comments on nine Jo-Carroll Energy academic scholarships that were awarded to local high school seniors, noting that each winner has been contacted. The Director Scholarships that are normally given during the annual meeting will take place in a virtual format this year, most likely via Zoom.

Merri Sevey, V.P. of Human Resources provided an update on employees returning to the Jo-Carroll Energy offices. A safety and orientation procedure will be provided to each employee upon returning to the office that will coincide with the Illinois Return to Work Policy.

Board Issues and Action Items

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a \$1,000 donation to go towards the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Memorial Scholarship fund.

Selection of the Region 5 & 6 Attendees was tabled until the July board meeting.

Operations and Regulatory Update

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager provided an operations update and discussed substation upgrades that are being performed. Buros noted that the Burns Rd. natural gas line expansion is ongoing and provided an update on fiber.

Regulatory Update – Chris Allendorf, V.P. of External Relations and General Counsel noted that no additional petitions were received from members for director elections. The elections will be by acclamation at the annual meeting.

Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:26 a.m.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 10:48 a.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Congratulations to our Director's Scholarship winners

President and CEO Mike Casper hosted a special Zoom meeting on June 30 with JCE board directors and applicants for the 2020 Director's Scholarships.

Director's Scholarships are normally drawn and awarded during the Annual Meeting of Members. The format was transitioned to a virtual meeting this year due to COVID-19.

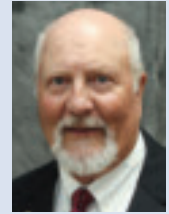
Congratulations to our 10 winners:

- District 1 – Trey Culbertson
- District 3 – Mackenzie Muehleip and Samantha Wasmund
- District 4 – Tayden Patterson, Andrew Wurster, Julianna Kuzniar and Mackenzie Furlong
- District 5 – Kendra Scace
- District 7 – Adam Rath
- District 10 – Neo Colter

Director's Scholarships are awarded by district; if no applicants are received from a district, those become "at-large" scholarships and are drawn from the remaining applicants.

JCE board chair receives award

Jo-Carroll Energy Board chairman Dave Senn of Mount Carroll (District 7)



was presented with the 2020 Chairman's Award during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Annual Meeting.

The award was presented by AIEC board chairman Warren D. Goetsch for "exemplary service to the Illinois electric cooperatives and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and for your continuing commitment to preservation of the cooperative business model."

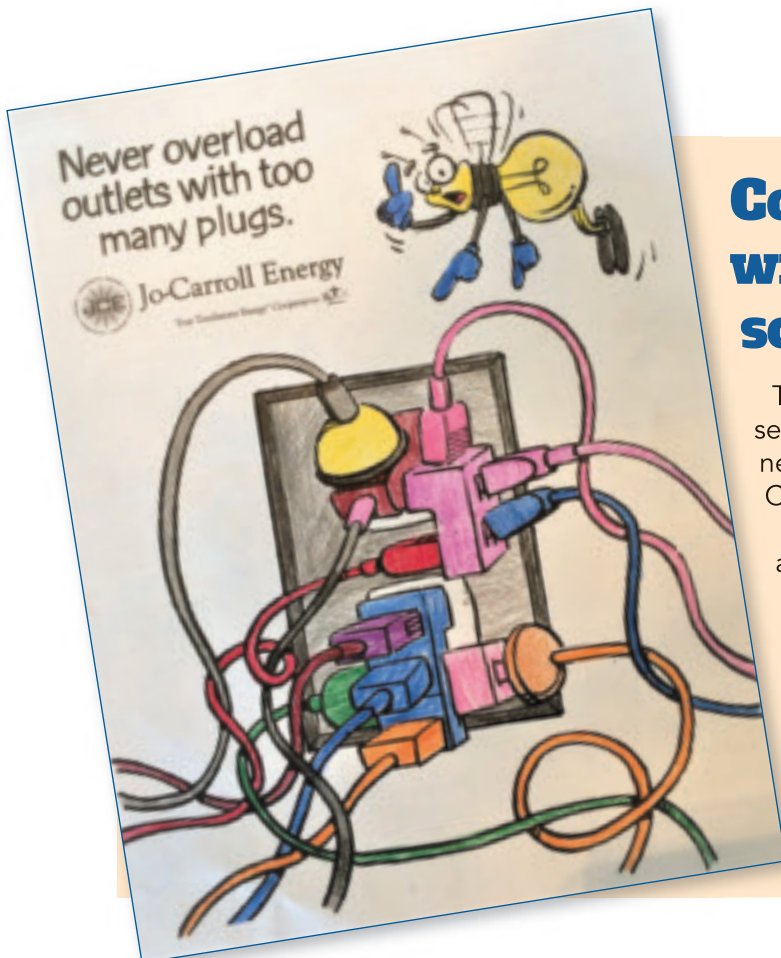
Coloring contest winners receive school supplies

Three children from Jo-Carroll Energy's service territory were selected as the winners of the 2020 Jo-Carroll Energy Coloring Contest.

They are Luke Ehrler, 6; Ian Stadel, 8; and Lauren Ehrler, 9.

Each of the students receive a set of school supplies for the fall. In addition, the library in the children's home community will receive five energy-related children's books.

For more information about Jo-Carroll Energy's youth programs, visit jocarroll.com.





Work begins on two solar projects

Jo-Carroll Energy members will soon have another opportunity to participate in community solar projects.

In September 2019, the JCE board of directors approved a power purchase agreement with an independent solar project developer, Bluestem Energy Solutions of Omaha, Neb. The project includes two sites, the Apple Canyon Lake Solar Farm in Jo Daviess County and the North Mt. Carroll Solar Farm in Carroll County.

Prior to completion of the projects in the fall, Jo-Carroll will offer members the opportunity to subscribe to the project. The project falls under the Illinois Power Agencies "Illinois Shines" program, which is the marketing name for the Illinois "Adjustable Block Program" (ABP). JCE expects members who subscribe may save money on their electric bill, while supporting the development of clean energy in our region.

The co-op was still finalizing details of the program and enrollment at the time of the deadline for this issue. Additional information can be found on the cooperative's website at jocarroll.com. The Apple Canyon Lake Solar

Farm features approximately 4,500 solar panels totaling 1.2 MW across 10 acres. This array is located approximately four miles southeast of Scales Mound. The North Mt. Carroll Solar Farm features approximately 1,900 solar panels totaling 0.7 MW across five acres and is located two miles north of Mount Carroll. Both sites are ground-mounted solar installations, interconnected to the co-op's distribution system.

Bluestem is leading the development of the project and will own and operate both projects long term. JCE will

purchase 100 percent of the power from the solar farms for the 25-year expected life of the projects. Bluestem has entered into long-term land lease agreements with the local landowners, who will benefit from annual lease payments.

Excavation work for the two community solar installations was started this summer, and they are expected to reach operation this fall. Bluestem also plans to utilize a pollinator mix of local flowers and native seeds planted underneath the solar panels to benefit area crops, habitat and soil quality.

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Jo-Carroll Energy

Make time for safety this harvest season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Jo-Carroll Energy and Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take time to look up and out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a sagging or low power line, contact us. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, if hit or damaged, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on the surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so you can be active and engaged in the farm work.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving

loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If the machinery you are operating makes contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

FARM SAFETY

POWER SOURCES

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes, and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, 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.



Safe
Electricity.org

How to save money in the laundry room

Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots and no one taking out your wet load if you aren't right there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

—Timothy Quinly

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the water heater.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load – that is, don't select the "extra-large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- Use cold water to save the money you spend heating



Source: [Energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

About 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

Save on energy costs by using cold or warm water.



water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.

- Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to energystar.gov.
 - Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
 - Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
 - Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
 - Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
 - When purchasing a dryer, consider an ENERGY STAR version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.
 - ENERGY STAR-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.
 - Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator. For more information about safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Visit jocarroll.com/energy-efficiency-incentives for information on how to save with our energy efficiency incentives.

Touchstone Energy celebrates local heroes in #WhoPowersYou contest

Jo-Carroll Energy, along with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, is pleased to announce the fifth annual #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes.

It's a chance for our members and employees to nominate someone who makes a difference in the community and an opportunity to celebrate the power of human connections. In addition to being nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero in Jo-Carroll's service area, members and employees can go to whopowersyou.com and submit their nominee's name, photo and a brief description of how they make a difference locally.

Nominations open on Sept. 8 and must be submitted by midnight on Oct. 9, 2020. An independent panel of judges will select the winning entry based upon the positive community impact and creativity of the entry. The winners will be announced by

Touchstone Energy in October. Prize money totaling \$9,000 will be awarded as follows:

- Grand Prize: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$2,000
- Third Place: \$1,500
- Honorable Mention: \$500

Only members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Jo-Carroll, are eligible to participate.



Who **POWERS** you?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com between 9/8/20 and 10/9/20 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.



\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000 SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 THIRD PLACE

\$500 HONORABLE MENTION

Visit whopowersyou.com for full contest rules

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Inc., 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. © 2020.



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. Please note we included two names this month because the August issue was used as the Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Report.