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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



jcecoop.com



18D-18E

Co-op Month

Multiple events celebrated the co-op spirit



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Gift of energy

Give creatively this season



18G

Storm relief

Lineworkers exemplify cooperation among cooperatives

Giving back is the cooperative way

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like JCE Co-op are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

While JCE Co-op's mission is delivering energy and broadband internet services safely, efficiently, and responsibly, we exist to enhance the quality of life for our members. Our purpose is people. That's why we donate to all food pantries and first responder/emergency services in the areas that we serve, as well as local not-for-profit organizations that support and have a positive, meaningful impact for our communities. You help power that purpose of community too through your generous contributions that help less fortunate families in our community and support local charitable organizations and community services.

Another way JCE Co-op gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at schools, scholarship opportunities and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due—to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because JCE Co-op is a



CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

not-for-profit cooperative, we operate at cost and give credit or cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

Here's how capital credits work:

JCE Co-op members use the energy and/or broadband services that we provide, and you pay your monthly bill(s). We track your business with the co-op over time. JCE Co-op pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to you, our members. JCE Co-op applies a credit to your bill or sends you a check.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at JCE Co-op, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.

To learn more about capital credits or ways we give back to local communities, visit jcecoop.com/capital-credits.

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Jerry Meyer
Vice Chairman
District 1

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

Dan Tindell
Secretary
District 4

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Allen Hendren
District 3

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Ted James
District 8

Larry Carroll
District 9

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
jcecoop.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

Resume of Minutes

Sept. 25, 2024

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024.

Safety Moment — Director Smith shared safety tips on the importance of a home inspection when purchasing a home. In addition, Smith provided tips on home safety, noting that you should always have an emergency exit plan, whether it be fire-related or an intruder. Smith also highlighted the importance of security cameras, which can be used as a tool for home safety.

Approval of Agenda — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

Consent Agenda — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items, including the Aug. 28, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes/Summary, Discounted Estate Retirements, and the board expense summary.

Presentation — Alex Peebles, Manager of Safety and Loss Control, provided a safety update, sharing actions (ongoing and completed) by the Safety Committee to mitigate safety risks for our staff and the communities we serve, as well as stabilize insurance costs that impact members' rates. Peebles also shared the results of a JCE Safety Survey. The board asked questions to clarify differences between incidents and asked for future follow-up.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review — None.

Governance Talk Video — A video of the President and CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) was shared, titled "Positioning Co-ops for Success After the Election."

Board Policy Review

Board Policy 101/Communications — Will be brought back to the Governance Committee for further consideration.

Board Policy 109.1/ Delegation of Authority — A motion was made by the Governance Committee, which was seconded and carried unanimously, to approve changes to the policy that

include granting the President and CEO the authority to be a signatory on bank lending actions to further support efficient cash management programs.

Board Policy 119/Nepotism — A motion was made by the Governance Committee, which was seconded and carried unanimously, to approve changes to the policy that will align with the current JCE Co-op administration policy.

Board Policy 124/Employee Attendance at Meetings — A motion was made by the Governance Committee, which was seconded and carried unanimously, that no changes to the policy are necessary at this time.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report — President and CEO Mike Casper shared that the cost of service (COS) study was completed for JCE Co-op's three business units (electric, natural gas and broadband). Results will be reviewed with the board next month.

Financial Operating Report — Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the August financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$46.3 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$37 million, which is (\$990,277) under the budget of approximately \$38 million. Margins are approximately \$2.2 million. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update — Senior VP and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Buros provided updates on current JCE Co-op projects. Projects include changing out gas meters or components to auto read, rebuilding sections of electric line near Geneseo and replacing a section of a 4" natural gas pipeline. In addition, JCE Co-op continues its fiber buildout to meet grant award deadlines, while improving reliability.

IT Technology Report — Dan Marcure, VP and Chief Technology Officer, provided an update on the recently revised AI Administrative Policy. Additionally, Marcure discussed fiber upgrades that will optimize fiber speeds.

Member Services Update — Jennifer Meyer, VP of Member Services, provided an update on a recent training meeting on new software that will be implemented over the next 18 months that will improve safety and efficiencies at JCE Co-op.

External Affairs/Legislative Update — General Counsel Terry Kurt provided information on potential legislative changes.

Executive Assistant Update — Amy Johnston had nothing to report outside of her written report.

Board Issues and Action Items

CFC Certificate of Resolution and Incumbency Line of Credit for Broadband Use — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the CFC Certificate of Resolution and

Incumbency to include a credit facility that will be used to fulfill our broadband grant awards.

Approve Resolution Authorizing the Amendment of the 401(k) Pension Plan — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the amendment to the 401(k) Pension Plan.

Into Executive Session — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:09 a.m.

Out of Executive Session — A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:20 a.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session — None.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report — There was nothing to report as the AIEC did not have a September Board Meeting scheduled.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) — Director Mattingley noted that there was nothing

further to report than the written report provided.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report — Director Carroll discussed topics affecting the natural gas industry, noting that a legal/governance committee would be formed. Carroll also provided information on tankless water heaters and noted the proposed requirement for methane detectors to be installed in the home.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report — Director Kuhns shared highlights from the PPI Board Meeting and noted that they increased their equity target to 20% by 2030.

Region 5&6 Annual Meeting — Board members provided highlights from the Region 5&6 Meeting.

Other Business — The board discussed the open board meeting scheduled for Oct. 30, 2024, at 9 a.m. Notice will be shared on the JCE Co-op website and shared electronically as well.

Adjournment — Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.

HOLIDAY *Schedule*

CHRISTMAS

December 24 & 25: Offices Closed

NEW YEAR

January 1: Offices Closed

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Starting at 5:00 PM on Tuesday 12/31 the online MyAccount Portal, the JCE Mobile App, and all forms of payment and account management will be disabled for year-end maintenance. Services should be restored by noon on 1/1/2025.



Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a JCE Co-op 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 JCE Co-op.

Fall fun at JCE Co-op

JCE Co-op celebrated with its members and community this fall in honor of National Co-op Month.

Starting at the end of September and throughout October, co-op employees spent time catching up with members and giving back to our communities at several co-op and community events. We ended September with a bang with our Member Appreciation Days, where we welcomed more than 900 members to celebrate with us at our Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo offices, and this year we added a fourth location at Heritage Park in Erie, Ill.

We then jumped into October headfirst, partnering with Dairyland Power and Zeillies Tree Service for a cooperative day of service on Oct 2. With guidance from the Gramercy Park board, the group worked diligently to clear trees and brush. The event was one of six service projects coordinated by Dairyland.



On Oct. 3, we partnered with NW Illinois Economic Development and Jo Daviess Carroll CTE Academy to host a Manufacturing and Trade Day. This event took about 360 area sophomore high school students into manufacturing facilities for site visits and to the CTE for interactive hands-on learning sessions led by area trades-focused businesses.

JCE had the honor of hosting the Stockton and East Dubuque sophomores. The students got to spend time with a lineworker, gas technician, broadband technician, mechanic and groundskeeper.

We wrapped up the month of October with some Halloween fun, which found us in a galaxy far, far away in the Galena and Savanna Halloween parades. Our float featured the theme "Star Wars," celebrating the strength of the co-op force as we continue to grow. We also participated in trunk-or-treats at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabeth and Whiteside County Sheriff's Department in Morrison.



Finally, we finished our co-op month activities strong by partnering with Impact life to host a blood drive at the Savanna Fire Station, which was also the kickoff of our annual food drive.

JCE to retire capital credits this month

JCE Co-op will retire capital credits totaling approximately 1.6 million in December. The board of directors approved the retirement at its October board meeting.

Approximately 23,200 members and former members will receive a check or bill credit in December. Active members will receive capital credits up to \$599.99 as a bill credit. Active members with retirements of \$600 or more and all inactive members will receive a check. As in previous years, the minimum check amount is \$10; any retirement less than \$10 will be carried over until the next year or minimum is reached.

Capital credits represent a member's ownership in JCE Co-op and is one of the benefits of being a cooperative member. Allocating and retiring capital credits to members helps distinguish cooperatives from for-profit utilities.

JCE Co-op is proud to support our members and communities by putting money back into the pockets of those we serve.

In 2014, JCE Co-op changed to a hybrid method of retiring capital credits. Previously, the cooperative had retired capital credits



using the "first in, first out" method (FIFO) on a delayed schedule of about 25 years. Under the process, members who were first to purchase energy were the first to be paid back.

The hybrid method keeps the 25-year rotation plus retires five percent of the remaining capital credits at a discounted rate. The method retires capital credits to more active JCE members while not neglecting the cooperative's commitment to return capital credits to its longtime and former members.

The advertisement features a blue background with white snowflake patterns. On the left, there is a white gift box with a gold ribbon, partially open, with a yellow energy credit certificate sticking out. The text is centered and right-aligned. The main headline is in large, bold, yellow-green letters. Below it, the sub-headline is in white. The body text is in white, and the footer contains the JCE Co-op logo and contact information in white on a green background.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY

HOLIDAY ENERGY CREDITS

A wonderful gift for any JCE Co-op member!

Certificates are available in any amount and are applied to the member's energy bill for the amount purchased.

JCE CO-OP
Electric • Gas • Fiber

Ask any of our member service representatives for more information 800.858.5522

JCE Co-op aids in restoration efforts after Hurricane Helene

In October, JCE Co-op sent four of its skilled lineworkers to the southern United States to aid in the restoration efforts after the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene. Brad Travis, Adam Miller, Justin Rolwes and Jake Weede joined the Illinois co-op contingent as part of a nationwide mutual aid response, working together to bring power back to communities served by fellow electric cooperatives in urgent need.

We're incredibly grateful to these dedicated lineworkers, who willingly left behind family, friends and the comfort of their own homes to serve others. Their hard work and selflessness embody Cooperative Principle #6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Their willingness to answer the call,



Left to right: Adam Miller, Jake Weede and Brad Travis. (Ryan Rolwes not pictured.)

especially in such challenging conditions, is a testament to the cooperative spirit. We couldn't be prouder of our

crew for representing JCE Co-op and making a difference where it was needed most.

Kathleen Rahn

Introducing . . . Inspector Watts!

JCE Co-op's energy advisor, John Scott, is now Inspector Watts!

Inspector Watts . . .

- ✓ is your friendly, local energy advisor
- ✓ will be your reliable source for information on geothermal and energy efficiency
- ✓ will sleuth out energy saving options for your residence, business or farm



- ✓ will have a mascot, "Thermie", to appeal to our young members for activities and leave behinds in classroom settings when needed

As part of our overall brand refresh, we relinquished "The Energy Detective."



‘Tis the season for **FASTER SPEEDS!**



Don't let the holiday season bring your Internet down. Get ahead of the holidays and be prepared—**upgrade to one of our fiber internet packages today!**

Give us a call at 800-858-5522 or visit us online to get connected at jcecoop.com/fiber.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

 **JCE CO-OP**
Electric • Gas • Fiber