

HI-LINES

A newsletter for members of JCE Co-op



MAY 2025

Elizabeth, IL

800-858-5522

jcecoop.com



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

JCE Co-op's roots run deep

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 6

Senior Planet-Savanna Museum and Cultural Center 10:00-11:00 a.m.

MAY 8

Senior Planet-Mount Carroll District Library 1:00-2:00 p.m.

MAY 13

Senior Planet-Schmaling Memorial Public Library Fulton 11:00 a.m.-Noon

MAY 15

Senior Planet-Apple Canyon Lake Clubhouse 1:00-2:00 p.m.

MAY 20

Senior Planet-Morrison Odell Public Library 11:00 a.m.-Noon

MAY 26

Closed for Memorial Day

MAY 27

Senior Planet-JCE Co-op Elizabeth Time-TBD

MAY 28

JCE Co-op Annual Meeting East Dubuque High School 4:30-8:30 p.m.

MAY 29

Senior Planet-Geneseo Public Library 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

SPECIAL FEATURE

18B

Meet our director candidates!



JCE CO-OP
Electric • Gas • Fiber

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 86th Annual meeting on May 28 at East Dubuque High School. This event is a great opportunity for me, your board of directors and other co-op employees to meet with members and talk about what is going on at your co-op.

JCE Co-op's roots run deep in the rural communities we serve. Our passion for improving our communities for the next generation is strong because we were established by local leaders who understood the value of bringing essential services to our rural landscape. Today we continue to be committed to delivering safe, efficient and reliable services to you every day.

Because we are local and deeply rooted in the communities that we serve, we are incentivized to improve the quality of life in our area. These roots run even deeper considering the many local JCE employees whose family origins go back five generations or more.

Growth is one of our key objectives. That growth will have a positive impact and benefit our entire region, which ties directly to improving the quality of life in our area. Much of that growth is through the buildout of our fiber network and related services. Broadband fiber deployment in Northwest Illinois will significantly enhance connectivity, transforming key sectors of the economy and enabling economic growth across the region.

A recent Center on Rural Innovation report concludes that high fiber broadband adoption rates in counties

greatly improve rural area economies compared to otherwise similar counties without fiber. High broadband utilization in rural areas leads to 213% higher business growth rates, 18% higher per capita income growth rates and 44% higher gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates compared to areas with low broadband utilization.

Higher broadband utilization helps mitigate the economic disadvantages often faced by rural areas. Rural counties with high broadband utilization see increases in the number of businesses, whereas similar counties without see the number of businesses decline. Another recent study by the Brattle Group in 2024 reveals the potential increase in home values of 14 to 17%.

In addition, broadband-driven agricultural technologies can increase farm productivity, contributing to higher revenue for local farmers. Fiber connectivity will also make the region more attractive for reshoring and nearshoring opportunities, supporting smart manufacturing facilities, automation, and cloud-based manufacturing systems. Other expected benefits are savings in healthcare, population growth, improved student outcomes in education and improved supply chain efficiency.

Broadband fiber deployment in the region will accelerate economic growth, boost productivity across industries, and improve the quality of life for our members, ultimately positioning Northwest Illinois as a competitive, connected and thriving rural region.

Don't miss the 86th annual meeting of members!

All JCE Co-op members are invited to attend the 86th Annual Meeting of Members on Wednesday, May 28 at East Dubuque High School.

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. with the business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a pulled pork sandwich dinner.

Remember to bring the registration card from the 2025 Annual Report that was mailed in late April. Every membership in attendance will receive a \$10 bill credit.

Co-op displays will feature energy efficiency, safety, fiber internet and more!

During the official business session, you will hear updates from Board Chairman Dave Senn and President and CEO Mike Casper. Special guest speaker is Jason Herbert, vice president of external affairs at Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Three director districts are up for election in 2025. These districts are 1, 2 and 4. There are no contested elections this year. When only one candidate files in a district, no ballots are mailed and the election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting.

One bylaw amendment will be considered. The proposed change is to Article II Section 6. The current version of the bylaws does not adequately distinguish between Class A and Class B members. The new amendment clearly defines Class B Members as those who receive services other than full retail services. This amendment will allow the co-op to better track Class B Members and allow for a more accurate calculation of capital credits based on the use of capital by each class of members.

At the end of the meeting, door prizes will be awarded, and a drawing will be held for the Director's Scholarships. Members must be present to win door prizes; students who have applied for the Director's Scholarships must attend with at least one parent or guardian.

Members who can't attend are invited to submit questions in advance at jcecoop.com/annual-meeting and will be entered into a drawing for bill credits. Deadline for online questions is May 14.

We encourage families to attend! A kids' area with special activities for children ages 5-10 will be available during the business session. We'll have safety demonstrations, games and more for our future co-op members.



Meet our director candidates



District 1

Jerry Meyer

7625 N. Menominee Road
East Dubuque, IL 61025

Jerry Meyer is a dedicated community leader and experienced professional with a history of service and commitment. He is the proud father of four children and grandfather to 12 grandchildren, sharing his life with his wife, Karen. Meyer's career spans over 40 years, most notably as the owner of J.M's Tap in Menominee, where he built lasting relationships within the community. He also served as a trustee for the Menominee Dunleith Fire Department for 22 years, was a Village of Menominee Trustee and Village Park Director for the Menominee Ballpark.

As a member of the JCE Co-op board, Meyer currently serves as the Board Vice Chair and is an alternate for the Prairie Power Board of Directors. He is a contributing member of the American Electric Cooperatives PAC and has been involved in key industry events, such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., and the Electric Cooperative Lobby Day in Springfield. Meyer also regularly attends regional and national conferences hosted by organizations like the NRECA, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). **Brian Wytfels**


Meyer is an advocate for continuing education, understanding its critical role in leadership. Over the past four years, he has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification, completed the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), recently achieved Board Gold Certification, and has participated in the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum.

In his role with JCE Co-op, Meyer is committed to improving the quality of life for co-op members by providing safe, reliable and affordable power solutions. He recognizes the increasing challenges faced by the energy sector, including the need to balance renewable



energy integration, supply chain management and navigating fluctuating political landscapes. Meyer emphasizes the importance of long-term planning, focusing on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the next 30 to 50 years.

Always forward-thinking, Meyer believes in moving ahead with caution and determination while staying adaptable to the ever-evolving energy landscape. He encourages cooperative members to reach out with questions or feedback, welcoming engagement from the community and ensuring their voices are heard in shaping the future of the Co-op.



District 2
.....
Joseph Mattingley
292 W. Schapville Road
Scales Mound, IL 61075

Joe Mattingley is from rural Scales Mound and resides in Guilford Township. He has been a member of the co-op since the 1990s and a lifelong resident of northwest Illinois. Currently he co-owns and is the Chief Executive Officer of Arrow Group in Galena.

He is a graduate from Scales Mound High School. Post-graduation, Mattingley enlisted in the Navy as a medical corpsman. After his enlistment, he finished his college degrees at Highland Community and Columbia Colleges in Freeport.

Since his appointment to the board in May of 2006, he has brought ideas to JCE Co-op from his member constituents that have helped advance board and administrative policies that in turn have proactively evolved JCE Co-op's corporate culture for the betterment of all co-op members.

Mattingley has previously represented JCE Co-op on the Dairyland Power Cooperative board of directors and is a member of the government affairs committee of the American Public Gas Association.

For a full review of Mattingley's business history, please review Mattingley's LinkedIn profile at: [linkedin.com/in/josephwmattingley](https://www.linkedin.com/in/josephwmattingley). Mattingley greatly appreciates all the past support of the District 2 members and is committed to continue to be a strong leader in serving them for the betterment of all JCE Co-op members.



District 4
.....
Dan Tindell
13 W. Arrowhead Dr.
Galena, IL 61036

Dan Tindell joined the JCE Board of Directors in 2017 and has been reelected for two consecutive three-year terms since. He and his wife, Pam, have been cooperative members since 1996. Tindell retired in 2017 after working as a caseworker for the State of Illinois, previously holding positions with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in Galena and Elizabeth. He also served as a public-school teacher and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. Pam, a retired preschool teacher from River Ridge CUSD #210, and Tindell have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Tindell identifies the fiber buildout as the top issue for members in District 4, with JCE Co-op receiving over \$20 million in grants to prioritize fiber growth over the next two years. He emphasizes the need for better member engagement through marketing and educational initiatives, including classes on streaming services in partnership with Senior Planet. He believes JCE must also prepare for future technological advancements in generation, transmission, renewables and fiber to stay ahead of state and federal mandates. Above all, Tindell stresses safety, having worked to establish a culture that prioritizes the well-being of staff, ensuring they return home safely to their families.

An advocate of servant leadership and lifelong learning, Tindell has completed the Director Gold Program for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and serves as JCE's Board

(Continued)





Meet our director candidates (continued)

Secretary and Governance Committee Chair. He also represents JCE as the alternate director for Dairyland Power Cooperative. Tindell's commitment extends to the board's fiduciary responsibility, ensuring decisions are informed by thorough analysis of data.

Tindell is deeply involved in his community, participating in organizations like the American Legion, Galena Bible Church, the Apple River Fort Foundation and the Great River Amateur Radio Club. He views his role as a director as an honor and strives to represent his members effectively.

Tindell's vision for JCE Co-op aligns with its mission to enhance members' quality of life by providing safe, reliable service. He is dedicated to inspiring the next generation, recently participating in a grant project that introduced virtual reality technology to local schools, giving students a firsthand look at line work and sparking interest in technical trades.



Hey co-op kids, enter our coloring contest! Deadline is May 30.

Winners will receive a set of school supplies for the fall school year and other fun prizes. In addition, to the prizes, we donate five energy related children's books to the child's community library.

Coloring sheets, along with the entry form and rules, can be found at your local library, school or downloaded at jcecoop.com/member-involvement. Only one entry per child is allowed, and each entry will be placed into one of the three age groups 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.

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.

TrevStrong
8TH ANNUAL
MEMORIAL

BLOOD
DRIVE

Give blood in memory of Trevor

Friday, May 16
 2:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.
 John & Carla Edwards Aquatic center - Poolside Room (541 E North St, Geneseo, IL 61254)

To book your appointment, or find a location near you where you can still donate in Trevor's honor, contact Jill Ieerinck at rememberandsmile21@outlook.com or scan the QR code.



Trevor received 588 units of blood.



AMI installations to begin

JCE Co-op will be deploying a new automated metering infrastructure (AMI) over the next two years and has contracted with Utility Metering Systems (UMS) for the installation of new meters throughout JCE Co-op's service area.

Installations are slated to begin in May, starting in the northern part of the service area and moving south. By replacing the existing meters, the co-op will be able to record electric use more reliably and accurately.

All UMS employees working on the project will have an ID badge and will be wearing gray shirts with UMS on the sleeve or bright yellow t-shirts/jackets/vests with "Utility Metering Solutions" or "UMS" on the back. They will travel in vehicles that have a large co-branded UMS and JCE Co-op magnet. UMS employees will also carry a letter of authorization.

JCE Co-op plans to post updates for installation areas on our website at jcecoop.com and in our monthly publications. Members will also receive an eblast and/or postcard before meter installations begin in their area. You can follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for updates as well.

UMS will attempt to knock on the members' door before they begin the meter change. However, members are not required to be at home when the new meter is being installed. If no one is home, the UMS contractors will leave a door hanger indicating that the new meter was installed or a reason the meter could not be changed. There will be an interruption of service for approximately 15-30 minutes.



If the meter change was not completed, a return date for a second attempt will be noted. Some members may need to consult an electrician if their existing meter socket or pedestal is found to be unsafe during the exchange. If a member knows their socket or pedestal needs to be replaced, it would be best to have the replacement work done prior to the contractor's arriving. More information on this can be found on our website at jcecoop.com/projects.

Benefits of the project include:

- Increased reliability in receiving timely information from the meters and better direct communication to the meters.
- Arc and hot socket detection as well as temperature and other alarms for enhanced safety.
- Decreased truck rolls saving the co-op time and money. Learn more about the project at jcecoop.com/projects.

Budget billing accounts to recalculate

Members with budget billing for their electric and/or natural gas accounts will have the budget amounts recalculated in May. Because the budget amount is based on an average of previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or debits may accrue, the May true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to check your May statement to see if your budget amount has changed. A message in blue will appear on your statement to indicate the new budget amount if the recalculation resulted

in a change. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained the same. You will begin paying the new budget amount in June.

If you have more than one billing account on budget, it is possible that one or both amounts may change.

Due to a software change, starting in November of 2025 all budget billed accounts will convert to leveled billing, and budget billing will be sunset. You can also find more information on our website at jcecoop.com/budget-billing.



7000

THANK YOU!

FIBER INTERNET MEMBERS

JCE Co-op connects our 7000th fiber internet member!

We're thrilled to announce that we've reached a major milestone—our 7,000th fiber internet member is officially connected! The Garden Plain Township building is now part of our growing fiber network, and to celebrate, we hosted a special ceremony with representatives from JCE Co-op, Whiteside County and Garden Plain Township for the official 'lighting up' of the fiber connection. This marks another significant step in bridging the digital divide in our region.

A huge THANK YOU to the incredible teams behind this achievement—our construction crews, line crews, engineers, installers, broadband technicians, operations, marketing and sales teams. Your dedication and hard work are making a lasting impact on our community.



Back row, left to right: Scott Reynolds, Garden Plain township trustee; LaVerne Sterenberg, Garden Plain township supervisor; Greg Pessman, Garden Plain township trustee; Rollie Vander Eide, Garden Plain township highway commissioner; Mike Casper, president and CEO of JCE Co-op; Martin Koster, Whiteside County board chair & labor management committee chair; Amy Robbins, Whiteside County administrator; Tim Berogan, Whiteside County information technology director; Gary Camarano, Whiteside County economic development director and enterprise zone administrator; Jesse Shekleton, director and general manager of broadband at JCE Co-op.

Front row, left to right: Steve Boll, Garden Plain township trustee; Larry Carroll, JCE Co-op board of director; Perry Titze, supervisor of outside plant contractors; Katie Herrig, broadband sales representative; Scott Honerbaum, broadband sales representative; Derek Bradt, broadband marketing and sales manager.

We're proud to serve as your trusted local fiber co-op!



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

February 27, 2026

Board Meeting Minutes Summary

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025

Safety Moment – Director Joe Mattingley emphasized the importance of having an AED onsite (Automated External Defibrillator), explaining what they are and why they are essential for businesses and field operations. These portable devices deliver an electric shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm during a cardiac arrest and are designed to be used by non-medical personnel in emergency situations.

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

Consent Agenda – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Presentations

Paula Keck, Graphic Design and Marketing Coordinator presented the design and theme for this year's JCE Co-op Annual Report Cover, "RURAL ROOTS. CO-OP VALUE".

Keith Kaderly, Inside Information, presented results from the Fall 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review

Board Policy 104.1| Travel – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to bring back Board Policy 104.1 to the Governance Committee for further discussion.

Board Policy 102.1| Director Elections – A motion was made by the Governance Committee to review Board Policy 102.1 after the Annual Meeting, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Board Policy 145| Open Meetings – A motion was made by the Governance Committee that no changes be made to Board Policy 145, which was seconded, and carried unanimously.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO, Mike Casper, yielded his time to discuss other matters later.

Financial Operating Report – Financial Operating Report Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer. January Revenue is approximately \$6.7 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$5.3 million, which is \$332,879 under the budget of \$5.7 million, due to multiple factors. Margins are approximately \$371,972 and are \$759,193 greater than budget of (\$387,221), primarily due to revenue over budget by \$327,460. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Buros provided an operations update and noted that our 7,000-fiber subscriber will be connected. He also shared that the substation upgrade(s) being completed over the next couple of years in the Savanna, Chadwick, Mt. Carroll area will improve reliability, specifically in Mt. Carroll.

IT Technology Report – Dan Marcure, V.P. and Chief Technology Officer shared that JCE completed an internal phone system upgrade, which will support more efficient operations and improved member service.

Member Services Update – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member provided an update of the JCE Co-op Strategic Plan, outlining strategic goals, objectives, and initiatives to enhance technology, member engagement, and the new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

External Affairs/Legislative Update – General Counsel Terry Kurt provided additional information on a proposed easement legislation bill that is being considered.

Resume of minutes *(Continued)*

Executive Assistant Update – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, shared details about the upcoming Director Peer Assessment training by Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), to be held at JCE headquarters. The training will provide directors with educational tools to collaborate effectively with their peers.

Board Issues and Action Items

Proposed 2025 Bylaw Amendments – A motion was made by Director Hendren to approve the proposed 2025 bylaw amendment, which was seconded by Director James and carried unanimously.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Resolution for the NW Illinois Career Pathway Exploration Project – A motion was made by Director Hendren to approve the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Resolution for the NW Illinois Career Pathway Exploration Project, which was seconded by Director James and carried unanimously.

Attendees were selected to attend the Board Leadership Certificate Class Refresher.

Executive Session

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:08 AM.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:10 AM.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) – Director Senn shared information on proposed Illinois legislation that may impact electric co-op members.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns shared highlights and generation statistics from the most recent Prairie Power Board Meeting. Casper shared improvements made with PPI's hedging policy to further mitigate risks associated with future power supply costs.

Dairyland Power Cooperative Roundtable – Directors commented on the Dairyland District Meeting that was held virtually.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.



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.



**JCE CO-OP
OFFICES WILL BE**
closed

MONDAY, MAY 26

Hit us with your BEST shot!

JCE Co-op members are invited to submit their best photos for our 2025 photo contest.

The subject of the photo can be landscapes, powerline equipment or anything that depicts life in northwest Illinois. Entries must be submitted by June 30.

Entrants must be JCE Co-op members; spouses and children of members may submit photos also. All photos must be the work of the entrant and be taken within the JCE Co-op service area.

We will choose 12 photos to appear on the pages of our 2026 photo calendar pages. Several other photos may be selected as honorable mention. Some of these may also be used on our website or ads.

For complete rules and entry information, please visit jcecoop.com/member-involvement. We do ask that members limit their entries to five each.

