

# GROWING *for you*



2024 Annual Report

# NOTICE OF JCE CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 6 p.m.  
Saint Malachy School  
595 E Ogden Ave  
Geneseo, IL



*Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.;  
co-op displays open until business  
session.*



---

## Action will be taken on the following:

- The report of officers, directors and committees;
- Report of director elections;
- The motion for acclamation for election of two (2) directors of the cooperative;
- Consideration of bylaw amendments.
- All other business which may come before the meeting or an adjournment or adjournments thereof;

*Dated this 15th day of May, 2024*

---

## OUR VISION



JCE Co-op exists to enhance the  
quality of life for our members.

# ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM AND AGENDA

Member registration ..... 4:30 p.m.

Co-op displays and information

Geothermal Power Hour with John Scott ..... 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Business session ..... 6:00 p.m.

Welcome ..... Bob Kuhns, District 10 Director  
Call to order ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Approval of annual meeting agenda ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Invocation ..... Deacon Robert O'Rourke of St. Malachy  
Pledge of Allegiance ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Introduction of JCE Co-op directors and recognition of former directors ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Introduction of special guests and employees ..... Mike Casper, President & CEO  
Guest speaker ..... Jeremy Johnson, VP of Engineering & Operations, Prairie Power, Inc.  
Approval of minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Report of director elections ..... Terry Kurt, Cooperative Counsel  
Election of directors by acclamation ..... Terry Kurt, Cooperative Counsel  
Consideration of bylaw amendments ..... Terry Kurt, Cooperative Counsel  
Chairman presentation ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
President & CEO presentation ..... Mike Casper, President & CEO  
Acceptance of President & CEO reports and financial statements ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Questions & answers ..... Mike Casper, President & CEO  
Unfinished business ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
New business ..... David Senn, Board Chairman  
Adjourn ..... David Senn, Board Chairman

## Special presentations

Director's scholarships drawing & presentations

*Student applicants and at least one of their parents or guardians must be in attendance for the Director's Scholarships*

## Door prizes

*Must be present for the drawing to receive prizes*

10 - \$25 bill credits

4 - \$50 bill credits

1 - Free home energy audit

## Prizes drawn from questions submitted prior to the meeting

5 - \$20 bill credits

Dinner following the meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

**NEW**  
this year!

*Special geothermal Power Hour  
presented by John Scott from  
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join us!*

# JCE CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

## Democratic member control—our cooperative principle

Locally-owned and operated, that's one thing that sets your co-op apart from others. JCE Co-op is guided by a board of directors who are members of the co-op, elected by members like you to serve three-year terms.

## Board Officers

---



**David Senn**  
*Chairman*

Board member since 2007  
Chairman since 2013  
District 7 representative



**Russell Holesinger**  
*Vice Chairman*

Board member since 2009  
District 8 representative



**Dan Tindell**  
*Secretary*

Board member since 2017  
District 4 representative



**Robert Kuhns**  
*Treasurer*

Board member since 2014  
District 10 representative

## Board Members

---



**Jerry Meyer**

Board member since 2021  
District 1 representative



**Joe Mattingley**

Board member since 2006  
District 2 representative



**Allen Hendren**

Board member since 2023  
District 3 representative



**Pat Smith**

Board member since 2006  
District 5 representative



**Tom Lundy**

Board member since 1990  
District 6 representative



**Larry Carroll**

Board member since 2011  
District 9 representative

# DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also lives locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

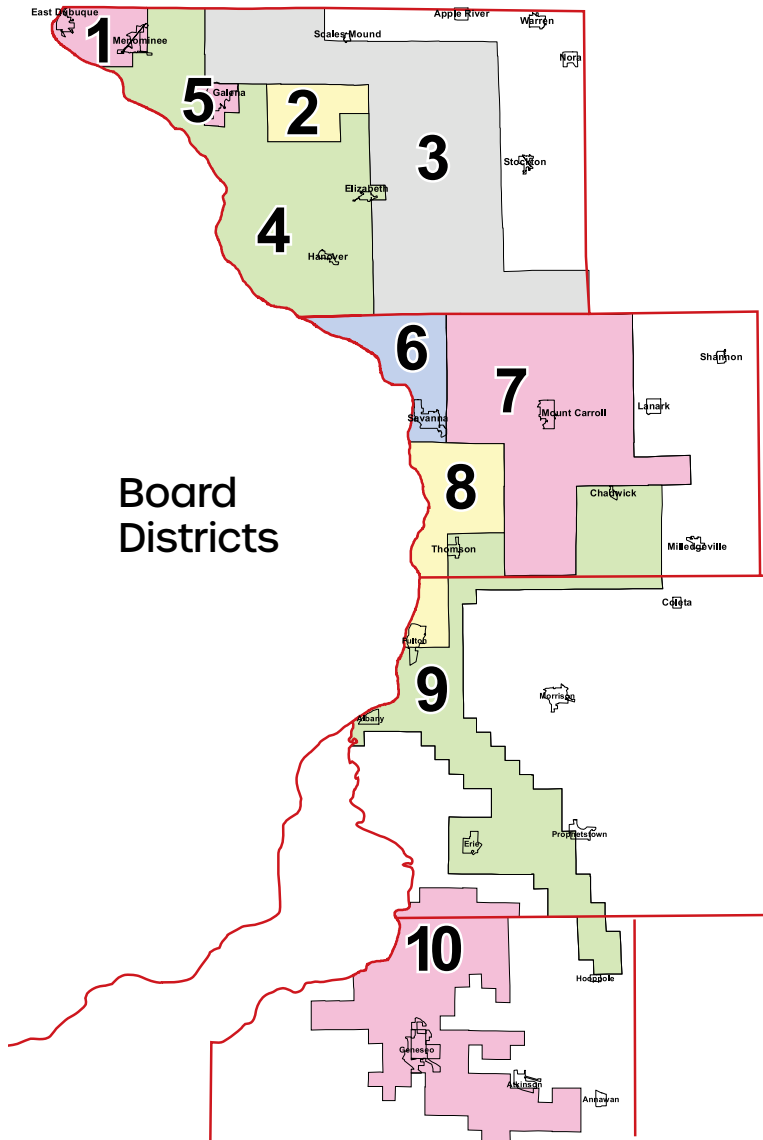


## JCE mourns the loss of our former Director

Marcia "Marcy" Carolyn Stanger, JCE Co-op District 3 Director, passed away on Monday, April 1, 2024.

A JCE board member from 2005–2023, Marcy dedicated 19 years to serving the members of the co-op. During her years on the board, she served as secretary as well.

Marcy was born June 9, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois to Harry and Virginia (Kappus) Meyers. Marcy is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 65 years, Robert; her two sons, Michael (Laura) of Kirkland, WA and Dan (Susan) of Burke, VA; two daughters, Carrie (Richard) Jensen of Edina, MN and Lauren (Robb) Clawson of Mundelein, IL; 12 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; one brother, Fred Meyers of Dallas, TX; and one sister, Jill (Glenn) Ozaki of East Grand Forks, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Dick Meyers.



Board Districts

## Director elections

Four director districts up for election in 2023 including Districts 5, 7, 8 and 10.

Three candidates have filed for election in Districts 5 and two candidates have filed in District 8. When more than one candidate files in a district or districts, an election by ballot is held for only those districts. Ballot packets and information will be sent to members in Districts 5 and 8 in May.

Only one candidate has filed in both Districts 7 and 10. When only one candidate files, no ballots are mailed and election is by vote of acclamation at the annual meeting.

More information and candidate profiles can be found in the May Hi-Lines.

# GROWING FOR YOU

---



## David Senn

*Board Chairman, JCE Co-op  
Board of Directors*



The growth of high-speed internet with the expansion of fiber helps retain and attract people to our beautiful area . . .

JCE-Co-op celebrates 85 years of service to our members. From a humble beginning in 1939 to an organization that boasts three growing business units. We are growing for you.

Growth is necessary for our children and our children's children to succeed. Without growth our area would lack opportunity. Our area has shifted gears several times through history with the loss of industry and large government entities (i.e., the Savanna Army Depot).

The growth of high-speed internet with the expansion of fiber helps retain and attract people to our beautiful area and a workforce that can perform business around the world. It also offers businesses and industry looking to expand to rural America a necessary means to compete.

The board of directors and management look forward to visiting with you on June 20. The beauty of the cooperative model is that we work on your behalf: Members and communities being served by a not-for-profit that only has your and our area's best interest at heart.

# 85 YEARS YOUNG

---

This year JCE Co-op celebrates 85 years as your cooperative.

Concern for community is one of our primary principles. Because we are your local cooperative, we care deeply about you and the communities that we serve. Caring is one thing, but doing is another.

What we are doing is growing for you. Growth is one of our key objectives that are set by the board of directors that you democratically selected. Growth will benefit our entire region by having a positive impact on you and the businesses and communities that we serve. Within this report, we share the improvements that we are making which are driving growth. We also highlight a few businesses that are benefiting from the value we are bringing to the area through improved infrastructure and added services, which will benefit future generations.

Offering our members real value—and working together to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve—is how we set ourselves apart. We have an obligation to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable service to our members every day. Because we are a cooperative, we take that a step further. We believe we have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools and enhance our communities. The advancement of our area's infrastructure, schools, public service, hospitals, businesses, and housing is crucial to our area's continued success. Our area is made up of the most dedicated, hardworking people, whose primary purpose is to make northwest Illinois a better place for our future generations.

The JCE Co-op team is committed to our mission of delivering utility solutions to our members and communities—safely, efficiently and responsibly. Our vision is to enhance the quality of life for our members. Every day we strive to bring more value to you through safety, added and reliable services, technology, and operational efficiencies.



**Mike Casper**

*JCE Co-op President & CEO*



Growth will benefit our entire region by having a positive impact on you and the businesses and communities that we serve.



# MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Jo-Carroll Energy was held at West Carroll High School, Savanna, Illinois, on Monday, June 5, 2023, pursuant to notice, duly given.

Chairman of the Board, David Senn, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. the Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) Annual Meeting and thanked the Board of Directors and the entire Jo-Carroll Energy staff. Chairman Senn stated that there would be a question-and-answer session at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Senn acknowledged that this was the 84th Annual Meeting of the members. Senn noted that there was a quorum present.

The Chairman then called for approval of the Annual Meeting Agenda. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda, as printed.

Pastor Gary Panetta gave the invocation.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Val Gunnarsson provided a welcome to the members that attended the meeting.

The Chairman introduced the Board of Directors who attended the meeting, noting the district each Director represented, and he identified the officers of the Cooperative.

The Chairman also introduced Mike Casper, President & CEO; Terry Kurt, Outside General Counsel, and recognized former Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors in attendance.

Cooperative President and CEO, Mike Casper then welcomed several special guests and recognized former and current employees, as well as the West Carroll School district and staff. Casper provided a safety moment, highlighting the cooperative's culture of safety.

The Chairman stated that the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were included with the official meeting notice and asked for a motion to approve them.





A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously by the members to approve the minutes as they were printed in the annual meeting booklet.

Outside General Counsel, Terry Kurt then explained that in accordance with the bylaws, there are two directors being elected by vote for District 3 and 6 and one director by acclamation in District 9. Kurt announced that Allen Hendren of Apple Canyon had received the most votes in District 3. Kurt thereby declared Director Allen Hendren duly elected for a three-year term. Kurt announced that Tom Lundy of Savanna had received the most votes in District 6. Kurt declared Tom Lundy duly elected for a three-year term. By acclamation, Kurt asked for a motion to elect Director Larry Carroll of Thomson, District 9, to a three-year term. Kurt thereby declared directors duly elected for three-year terms as follows: District 3, Allen Hendren, District 6, Tom Lundy, and District 9, Larry Carroll.

Outside General Counsel, Terry Kurt explained that there was an amendment this year to the Bylaws of the cooperative to Section 2: Director Districts, relating to fair representation by the board of directors. The Bylaw amendment provides flexibility and guidance to the Board of Directors if a vacancy occurs during the term of a Board of Director. It also further clarifies and deletes dates and events that have already passed and are no longer necessary in the Bylaws.

Chairman Senn addressed the members with his report. Senn touched on the importance of your CO-OP in this world of change, and the goal of working "Together Towards Tomorrow", noting that Jo-Carroll Energy continues to work closely with elected officials by letting them know that affordable, safe and high-speed internet are important to our members.

In his Annual Report, Mike Casper, President & CEO, discussed our commitment to improve local communities by developing services that provide value to you. Through our involvement in the

communities that we serve, we strive to develop solutions that will be impactful.

President and CEO Casper presented guest speaker Eric Hobbie, President and CEO of Prairie Power, Inc., a wholesale power provider. Eric discussed current and future trends in the energy market.

The Chairman asked for a motion to accept the officers' written and oral reports as well as the financial statements. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept these reports as written and conveyed.

The President and CEO then answered questions from the members, alternating between questions from the members present, and written questions submitted by members prior to the start of the meeting.

The Chairman reported that there was no unfinished business.

The Chairman then asked if there was any new business. There was none.

The Chairman asked if there was any other business, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the awarding of attendance prizes to follow.

Dated: June 05, 2023  
Signed: June 20, 2024  
Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Stanger  
Secretary



# GROWING *since 1939*

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative was formed in 1939, following two meetings of area farmers from Jo-Daviess and Carroll counties. With a loan from the REA, the co-op constructed its first lines and extended service to members.

In eight decades, the co-op's membership has grown from a handful of 60 rural members, spurred first by agriculture and then later by tourism, development of second homes at two lakes communities, subdivisions and larger commercial accounts.

Fiber internet is an additional area of growth and includes territories outside our traditional co-op footprint.

Your co-op is a member-owned, non-profit organization that supports our members, enriches schools and enhances our communities. It took decades to build out an electric transmission and distribution system to bring a service that we all take for granted today as we flip a switch or push a button on our smart phones to light our homes.

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative builds new headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois.



1984

Jo-Carroll Energy acquires Alliant Energy electric and natural gas service territories in Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside counties.

2007



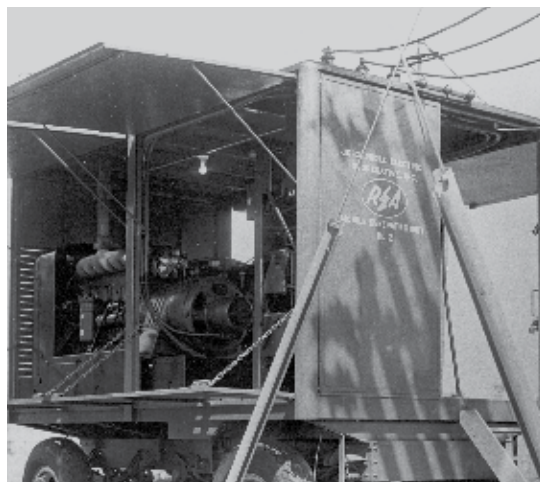
Jo-Carroll Energy announces the addition of wireless internet.

2009

1939

2001

The Board of Directors approves a name change and new logo. Co-op name becomes Jo-Carroll Energy, changing from Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative to reflect more diversified services and products.





1939-2024  
**8.5** YEARS  
**STRONG**

We have grown in both numbers of members and services provided since 1939. Our core businesses now number three, and we continue to experience expansion of our service territory with more members and new members in new areas.

With our 85th anniversary this year, we saw an opportunity to refresh our brand. We are proud of our heritage, so it was important to us that the new name honors our heritage. Our new name of JCE Co-op keeps the abbreviation of the previous names, Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative and Jo-Carroll Energy. Also important to us was putting "Co-op" back in our name, reminding all of the co-op difference and advantage.



**19,471**

Total number of members served



**100+**

Employees



**\$157M**

Total assets



Jo-Carroll Energy rebrands to JCE Co-op to simplify operations and build a brand that will be growth sustainable.

**2024**

Jo-Carroll Energy and Farmers Mutual Electric Company merge, adding electric territory and members in Henry County.

**2013**

**2011**

Jo-Carroll Energy purchases JISP network.

**2016**

Fiber internet is added to our services to keep up with future technology demands—providing better reliability, faster speeds and lower latency.



# GROWING *for the future*

## Powering our rural communities for the next generation

Located in the rolling hills southeast of Elizabeth, Steffes Registered Holsteins is a fifth-generation family farm that has embraced technology to help them continue their legacy.

The farm has seen a lot of changes since Dennis Steffes' parents bought the farm in 1970 starting with 10 cows. Now operated by Dennis and his wife, Jane, along with daughter and son-in-law Darcy and Austin Ertmer, the farm milks almost 500 cows and farms 450 acres of corn, 250 acres alfalfa. Dennis adds they owe everything to his mother, Karen, who recently passed away. "She gave everything to make this work."

Overcrowded facilities led the family to plan for a robot facility. "We decided that we were too crowded and didn't have room for all our animals," Dennis said. "We knew our next facility somehow had to have robots."



*Left to right: Austin Ertmer, Darcy Ertmer, Jane Steffes, Dennis Steffes*

For two and a half years, the family researched robotics and looked at a dozen different facilities. Ultimately, the decision came down to labor.

"The biggest reason we put the robots in is labor. . . . It takes a lot of manhours and labor is hard to come by," Dennis said.

Efficiency and cow comfort are other important factors. "Cows in this barn come and go as they please. They are never rounded up and walked to the parlor," he explained. "They eat when they want; they sleep when they want; they give milk when they want."

Better production is another benefit they've seen with the robot barn. Cows in the robot barn average about 95 pounds of milk per day while cows in the parlor are at 86 pounds per day.

Of the herd, 210 cows are in the robot barn. Each cow has a collar with an ID that is read by the robots so that the system can milk and feed the cows. As the cows are milked, the robots are collecting and analyzing data about milk quality and the cow's health. All the information is sent to an app that each of the family members has on their phones.

These robots depend on internet. Dennis is looking forward to having fiber internet. "The wifi we get from JCE Co-op is just enough to make it work," he said. "If there's not a good internet connection, it will timeout. Speed of fiber will help immensely."

Each family member has their role in the farm operation. Dennis takes care of the crops and feed. Jane (who Dennis says does just about anything that needs to be done) keeps the books serving as the farm's CFO. Darcy is in charge of genetics and the calves and Austin is mostly in charge of the robot facility.



# 95 lbs



Average amount of milk per cow, per day, with robotic milking



*Pictured above: Astronaut A5 robotic milk receiver container and meter. Pictured right: Robotic arm control panel.*

As the fifth generation of dairy farmers in the family, "I always knew I was coming back," Darcy said. "I love raising the calves and seeing them develop into really good heifers and good cows. I enjoy working with my family, but I really wouldn't have it any other way."

Discussing why the robotic facility was added, Dennis noted "When you have another generation, if you don't keep up with the technology, you kind of get run over. People will always need to eat and you can't make ag products in a lab."

.....  
"The ag industry and ag producers have to compete with everybody in urban settings so, if we have to compete with that, we have to be able to have the same technology."

— Dennis Steffes  
Owner Steffes Registered Holsteins



# GROWING *fiber-fast news*

## Tradition needs technology

In a world driven by technology that craves instant information, small towns residents still depend on their community newspapers as a trusted source of local information. A local paper is the community cheerleader, watchdog and historian, always bringing a local perspective to news.

Sustaining that tradition of the locally-owned hometown newspaper in Mount Carroll is Bob Watson, editor and publisher of the Carroll County Mirror Democrat, along with its sister publication the Savanna Times Journal.



*Bob Watson, editor and publisher of the Carroll County Mirror Democrat and Savanna Times Journal.*

Watson's parents owned the paper from 1949-63. He was able to purchase the paper in 1980 when it was again up for sale. Today, it and the Times Journal are the last newspapers in Carroll County.

"This is my hometown, this is where I wanted to come," Watson said. "I love newspapering and I got to do it here."

When working as a reporter and photographer for a daily, he said that despite the camaraderie with fellow staff members, he never felt a sense of community. "Here, and Savanna, the whole county is my community," he said.

Since the pandemic, Watson and a staff of four part-time employees keep the two papers running. Tuesdays are hectic as they work to produce the two publications for that week. Fiber internet has been a gamechanger on press days.

"What really prompted me to look at it was when we uploaded our pages for the papers on Tuesdays. On a good week, a 20-page paper took close to an hour to get all of the pages uploaded," Watson said. "On a bad week it would take three hours." Once he even had to load the files on a thumb drive and then drive to Dixon where paper is produced.

Since connecting to fiber, uploading pages for each paper took less than 10 minutes. This time-saving benefit also is realized by the paper's office manager when uploading public notices to the Illinois Press Associations central repository. What used to take about the same amount of time as uploading the pages is now accomplished in a matter of minutes.

"We're just a small group of people running this and waiting for pages to upload delayed everything else. I'm thrilled how it makes the workday, our busiest day of the week because of deadlines, go so much smoother and it is also a cost savings," he added.

Watson, who is considering the co-op's Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system for the office



5.6 hrs

- Potential time saved per week uploading files with fiber internet.
- 
- 
- 
- 

and fiber at his home, is eagerly awaiting to see what more benefits are to come. Local service is an advantage he anticipates. When technical difficulties occurred in the past it was difficult connecting with someone for help. "It would take forever and so many voice prompts, sometimes going in circles," he said. Now, he looks forward to having a local service to talk with.



Located in a historic building on Mount Carroll's town square, the paper has been a Main Street fixture since 1898.

.....

"Fiber has been a big benefit to our little operation. It allows me to do so many more things to prepare for the following week."

— Bob Watson  
 Editor and publisher of the Carroll County Mirror Democrat

.....



# GROWING *to better serve you*

## Connecting communities with high-speed, reliable fiber internet

JCE Co-op Fiber celebrated another milestone by connecting its 5,000th internet member and continues to grow the fiber-optic network. We now have completed the buildout of 73 fiber neighborhoods. Fiber construction crews continue fiber build-out of the co-op's 100 percent fiber-optic

network across our service area from the northern region in East Dubuque to our southern footprint in Fenton. We are excited to announce the addition of two more 100 percent connected communities with completion of fiber buildout of the entire city limits of both Galena and Mount Carroll.

### Fiber neighborhood buildout phases by numbers







## Electric

- Plan and profile reports have been completed on our 35.5 KV line from Hanover to the Army Depot. We will proceed with some H structure change outs on that line, material has been secured
- Working with Prairie Power to get a switch installed on the Ameren 34.5 kv line after they had to take a couple outages to our Geneseo and Ladwig substations. Installation of this switch would allow Ameren to open their line to clear problems while keeping JCE portion of the 34.5 line still energized



## Natural Gas

- Replacing 24,000 feet of gas pipeline on Burns Road in the Fenton/Erie area
- Decoupling JCE piping from Alliant Energy
  - *Allows installation of equipment to test pipeline for reliability and safety*
- AMI nodes are being installed on meters in the gas service territory
- Designing valve shut down zones for Albany and Fulton
- Acquiring easements for 8" main extension from Fulton to Thomson
- Flange encapsulation at Sabula Causeway
- Meter maintenance along with 3' rule assessments
- Steel service replacements
- Leak surveys—Public building/business area & transmission main



## Engineering

- As ITC Midwest progresses on upgrading transmission lines, our focus is on associated upgrades at substations served by ITC. Design begins on the east loop from York Substation to the Savanna 161 Substation and includes replacement of the Clay Substation in Mount Carroll with the new Railroad Substation and upgrading Chadwick substation, both at 69 kV supply voltage. With these improvements, Chadwick will back up the Thomson area and allow retirement of Argo Fay Substation
- In East Dubuque, Fretress Lake and Pioneer substations will see upgrades, providing better reliability, allowing backup to each other and the Menominee area



## Facilities

- The mechanics building is being fully utilized and has seen increased efficiencies
- Lobby remodels
- Looking to secure architecture design for the next phase of the East Campus (operations center/truck bay)
- MobileTrak, a real-time inventory management solution, installed to maximize inventory accuracy and efficiency



# GROWING *communities & leaders*

Community. At JCE Co-op, that means empowering the lives of the members we serve—and that is more than providing energy. In a community, neighbors look out for each other. For us, the power of community comes from the people who live here. That includes our

employees, our board members and you. Whether we're investing in tomorrow's leaders through scholarships and our youth programs, sponsoring area activities and projects or volunteering in our communities, we're working hard to make this a great place to live and work.



**\$5,500**

Area food pantry donations within our service territory



**\$5,550**

Local fire department and ambulance service donations



**\$8,000**

2023 scholarship program



**\$9,817**

Local and non-for-profit organizations



**\$20,000**

Total award of the CoBank Sharing Success Grant, this program provides matching funds allowing the co-op to award four grants



**\$2,500**

Community Ambulance Service (Elizabeth)

**\$2,500**

Hammond Henry Hospital (Geneseo)

**\$2,500**

City of Mount Carroll (Mount Carroll)

**\$2,500**

Fulton Historical Society (Fulton)



**\$38,867**

Total donations for 2023

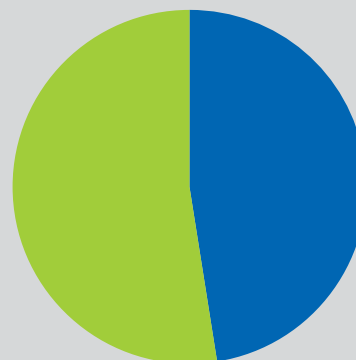
*All scholarships, grants and donations are made from unclaimed and donated capital credits.*

# BALANCE SHEET

Year Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

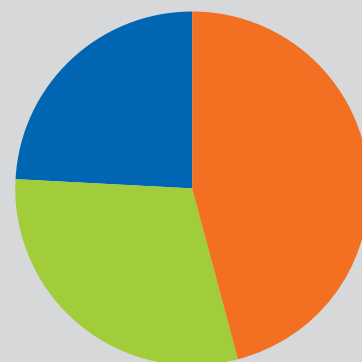
ASSETS:	2022	2023
<b>UTILITY PLANT:</b>		
Utility Plant in Service (cost)	179,166,518	196,244,346
Construction Work In Process	18,830,865	22,114,655
Subtotal	197,997,383	218,359,001
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	68,090,644	71,163,083
Net Utility Plant	129,906,739	147,195,918
<b>INVESTMENTS:</b>		
Non-Utility Plant (net)	1,484,923	1,667,473
Investments	16,319,602	17,538,882
Total Investments	17,804,525	19,206,355
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash	1,725,131	4,138,245
Temp Investments	-	-
Notes Receivable	121,715	121,715
Accounts Receivable	7,338,238	5,800,346
Materials Inventory	5,950,173	7,150,709
Prepayments	293,390	259,948
Other Current Assets	737,039	629,758
Total Current Assets	16,165,686	18,100,721
Deferred Debits	3,767,714	4,569,048
Total Assets	167,644,664	189,072,042
<b>EQUITIES &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		
Equities and Margins		
Memberships	-	-
Patronage Capital	27,924,825	28,585,460
Other Margins & Equities	12,641,269	13,818,477
Total Equities and Margins	40,566,094	42,403,937
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>		
CFC Mortgage Notes	103,802,528	119,160,945
USDA Economic Dev Loan	-	-
Other Noncurrent Liabilities	-	-
Post Retirement Benefits	1,029,312	1,228,364
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Notes Payable	3,000,000	5,000,000
Accounts Payable	5,593,145	6,741,746
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	5,522,825	5,927,609
Post Retirement Benefits	42,963	83,327
Customer Deposits	340,289	327,424
Other Current Liabilities	1,521,282	3,303,771
Total Current Liabilities	16,020,504	21,383,877
Deferred Credits	6,226,226	4,894,919
Total Equities & Liabilities	167,644,664	189,072,042

2023 Gas usage



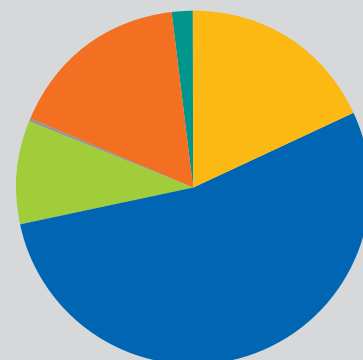
Residential-47% Commercial-53%

2023 Electric usage



Residential-46% Commercial-30% Large Commercial-24%

2023 Services by class



Residential gas-16.9% Commercial gas-1.7% Residential electric-53.7% Fiber Internet-18.2% Large commercial electric-1% Commercial electric-9.5%

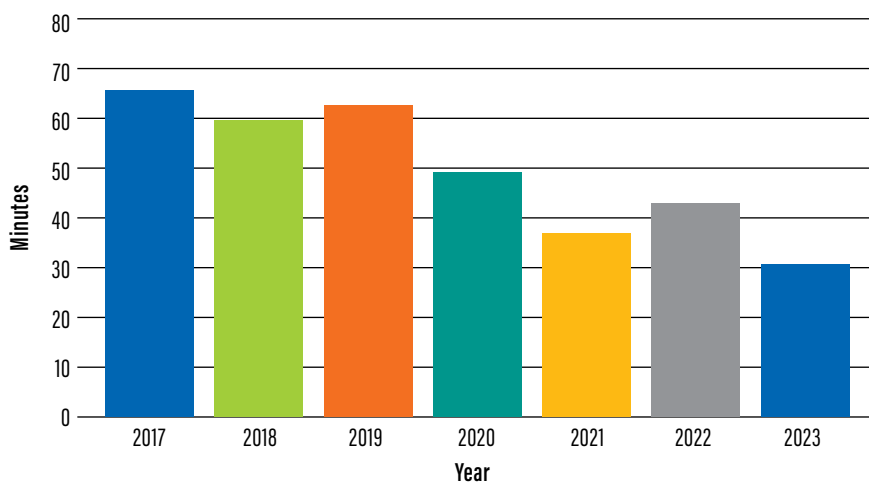
## Balance sheet *(continued)*

	2023	2022
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>	64,104,803	64,453,013
Cost of Power	32,112,003	34,737,528
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Transmission Expense	941	-
Distribution Expense - Operation	5,676,319	6,209,198
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	4,925,996	4,131,385
Customer Accounts Expense	2,401,459	2,028,392
Customer Service & Information Expense	1,070,301	977,130
Sales Expense	669,315	552,234
Administrative & General Expense	5,606,778	4,738,986
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	5,330,918	5,327,496
Tax	163,933	142,061
Interest on Long-Term Debt	4,606,786	3,932,884
Interest Expense - Short Term Debt	400,456	177,163
Other Deductions	236,459	196,129
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	63,201,665	63,150,586
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	903,138	1,302,427
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGINS:</b>		
Interest Income	20,125	17,927
Loss on Disposal of Equipment	27,044	38,551
Other Non Operating Margins	131,190	102,438
Patronage Capital from:		
Generation & Transmission	1,292,045	1,067,156
Other Capital Credits	396,516	337,978
Extraordinary Items	-	-
<b>NET MARGINS FOR PERIOD</b>	2,770,057	2,866,477

## Reliability report

System average  
interruption  
duration index

*Not including major  
event days*



# BYLAW UPDATES

---

*Changes to bylaws in red.*

## **ADDITION TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 7(D).**

*This amendment adds language requiring members to treat all co-op officials with courtesy and respect. Cooperatives are based on the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.*

**Section 7. Membership Agreement.** The Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws are contracts between the Cooperative and a Member. By becoming a Member, each Member acknowledges that:

- (a) Every Member is a vital and integral part of the Cooperative;
- (b) The Cooperative's successful operation depends upon every Member complying with the Governing Documents; and
- (c) All Members are united in an interdependent relationship.

A Member shall:

- (a) Comply with the Governing Documents;
- (b) Provide and maintain a current mailing address, telephone number or email address, if any, with the Cooperative; and
- (c) Pay the Cooperative for the Cooperative's damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney fees and legal expenses, caused by or associated with the Member's failure to comply with the Governing Documents.
- (d) **Not harass, intimidate, threaten, disparage, defame, or injure the cooperative or a cooperative official.**

If a Member fails to comply with the Governing Documents, then, as provided by these Bylaws, the Cooperative may suspend or terminate the Member or the Cooperative Service provided to the Member. Regardless of whether money damages are available or adequate, the Cooperative may:

- (a) Bring and maintain a legal action to enjoin the Member from violating the Governing Documents; and
- (b) Bring and maintain a legal action to order the Member to comply with the Governing Documents.

In general, a Member is not liable to third parties for the Cooperative's acts, debts, liabilities, or obligations solely because of membership in the Cooperative. A Member may become liable to the Cooperative as provided in the Governing Documents or as otherwise agreed to by the Cooperative and the Member.

## **ARTICLE II, SECTION 12.**

*Deletion of "oral" easements to be consistent with Illinois law.*

## **ADDITION TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 12.**

*A new paragraph is being added to Section 12 so the installation of cooperative services can be more efficient and performed in a timely manner in the absence of a signed written easement. The bylaws already require members to provide the cooperative access to any portion of member*

*property and requires the execution of a written easement in or on member property. This section will be utilized in those circumstances where no written easement has been obtained.*

**Section 12. Member Grant of Property Rights.** As required by the Cooperative for a Cooperative Purpose, each Member shall: (1) Provide the Cooperative temporary, or permanent, safe and reliable access to, and use of any portion of Member Property; and (2) pursuant to terms and conditions specified by the Cooperative, and without compensation from the Cooperative, grant or convey to the Cooperative a written ~~or oral~~ easement, right-of-way, license, or right or interest in Member Property, and execute a document regarding this grant or conveyance.

**Member to Grant Easements.** Each member shall execute, grant, and deliver to the Cooperative, without charge to the Cooperative, (a) an easement or right-of-way over and through, on and under such lands owned, occupied, or controlled by the member, as the Cooperative shall require for the furnishing of electric service, gas service or broadband service on said land to the member or other occupants or for the construction, extension, improvement, operation, maintenance or relocation of the Cooperative's poles, lines, fiber, and other materials and equipment of the Cooperative (b) the right to use and/or allow others to use the easements and Cooperative thereon for the provision of broadband service, and (c) the right to access and duly authorize third parties to access the easements to maintain the easements and the lines and other equipment thereon in such condition as may be necessary or desirable, including, without limitation, the right to cut trees, trim trees, apply herbicides for vegetation management, and remove or trim other obstacles, including trees, on or adjacent to the easements which may endanger the lines or other equipment on the easements or the public. The granting by a member of such easements and rights to the Cooperative shall be effective upon the member's admission to membership in the Cooperative, and the granting of such easements and rights shall be effective and enforceable even in the absence of a separate written easement agreement executed by the member. The member shall, nevertheless, execute a separate written easement agreement for recording purposes if requested by the Cooperative to do so.

## **ADDITION TO ARTICLE IX, SECTION 9.**

*The addition to this section regarding the appointment of committees provides consistency with past practices and existing board policy.*

## **Section 9. Committees.**

- (a) The Board ~~Chair shall of Directors may~~ appoint one or more committees and appoint directors or such other persons as the Board designates to serve on the committee or committees. Each committee shall have

# Bylaw updates *(continued)*

---

two or more directors, and in any event a majority of its membership shall be directors. All committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. A committee shall have such power and authority as given by the Board, subject to the restrictions and limitations of law.

## **ADDITIONS TO ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1(2), SECTION 2 AND SECTION 3.**

*The addition of language "telecommunications/broadband services" in the bylaws reflects the growth of the cooperative and the inclusion of those business units in the event of a disposition of property, mortgaging, merger or sale.*

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **DISPOSITION AND MORTGAGING OF PROPERTY, MERGER AND OFFER TO SELL**

**Section 1. Disposition and Mortgaging of Property in General.** The Cooperative may not sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of or encumber all or any substantial portion of its property unless such sale, mortgage, lease, or other disposition or encumbrance is authorized at a meeting of the members thereof by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all of the members of the Cooperative and unless the notice of such proposed sale, mortgage, lease, or other disposition or encumbrances shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting; provided however that, notwithstanding anything herein contained, the following shall apply:

1. the Board of Directors of the Cooperative, without authorization by the members thereof, shall have full power and authority to borrow money from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from the Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation or other financing institution or bank, as the Board of Directors shall select, and in connection with such borrowing to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage or mortgages or a deed or deeds of trust upon, or the pledging or encumbering of any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges, licenses, franchises, and permits of the Cooperative, whether acquired or to be acquired, and wherever situated, as well as the revenues and income therefrom, all upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine, to secure any indebtedness of the Cooperative; and
2. if the entity to which this Cooperative proposes to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of its property is or are electric cooperative(s) organized and existing under Illinois, Wisconsin or Iowa Statutes, and has/have been engaged in producing or furnishing electric power, **and/or** natural gas, **and/or telecommunications/broadband services** to its or their members at cost and without profit for at least two years prior to such sale, lease or other disposition, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors voting thereon at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors called for

that purpose shall constitute approval of such sale, lease or other disposition of such property.

**Section 2. Merger.** This Cooperative may merge or consolidate with one or more other electric cooperatives upon compliance with the provisions of law relating thereto. If the other cooperative or cooperatives with which this Cooperative proposes to merge or consolidate is or are electric cooperative(s) organized and existing under Illinois, Wisconsin or Iowa Statutes, and have been engaged in producing or furnishing electric power, **and/or** natural gas, **and/or telecommunication/broadband services** to its or their members at cost and without profit for at least two years prior to such merger or consolidation, an affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Board of Directors voting thereon at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose shall constitute approval of the plan of merger or consolidation. Likewise, if this Cooperative proposes to merge or consolidate with an electric cooperative which is an entity resulting from merger or consolidation of other electric cooperatives meeting the qualifications set forth above, an affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Board of Directors voting thereon at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose shall constitute approval of the plan of merger or consolidation. If the proposed merger or consolidation is with one or more organizations not meeting the foregoing qualifications, approval of the plan of merger or consolidation shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Cooperative in attendance at an Annual, Regular or Special Meeting of the members called, at least in part, for that purpose.

**Section 3. Procedure for the Sale of all or Substantially all of the Cooperative Property.** If at any time the Cooperative shall receive an offer to buy all or substantially all of its assets from a person or organization which is other than an electric cooperative organized under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of Illinois, or Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin or Iowa Statutes, which has been engaged in producing or furnishing electric power, natural gas **and/or telecommunications/broadband services** to its members at cost and without profit for at least two years thereto, or other than an entity resulting from the merger or consolidation of electric cooperatives meeting the foregoing qualifications, the Board of Directors is authorized, in its sole discretion, to determine whether or not such offer shall be submitted to the Cooperative membership for vote.

The Board of Directors shall base its decision on what it considers to be in the best interest of the Cooperative and its members. Among other factors, it shall consider what it believes would be the impact of a sale on the dependability and adequacy of service necessary to meet the present and future needs of its members, and the rates to be charged therefore. If the Board approves such proposal, it shall adopt a resolution recommending such sale, lease, ex-change, or other disposition and directing the submission thereof to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote which may be either an annual or a special meeting.

# IMPORTANT



Bring this

## REGISTRATION CARD

with you to the

2024 Annual meeting of members

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Saint Malachy School  
595 E Ogden Ave  
Geneseo, IL

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## ATTENDANCE

### Please join us in-person

JCE Co-op's 2024 Annual Meeting will be an approximate one-hour business session beginning at 6 p.m. and will be held in the Saint Malachy School. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. with co-op displays and booths before the meeting. There will also be a special Geothermal Power Hour from 4:30–5:30 p.m. Drawings for the 2024 Director's Scholarships will be held at the end of the business session with door prize drawings to follow.

### Must be present to win door prizes

- The meal will be served in the school gym at approximately 7 p.m.
- RSVPs are requested and can be made by visiting [jcecoop.com/annual-meeting](http://jcecoop.com/annual-meeting).

## JCE Co-op Annual Meeting

Thursday  
June 20 | 6 p.m.

Saint Malachy School  
595 E Ogden Ave  
Geneseo, IL

Registration  
begins at 4:30 p.m.

Special displays will feature  
co-op programs and services

Geothermal Power Hour  
4:30–5:30 p.m.

Member appreciation  
dinner 7 p.m.

Pork chop sandwich dinner  
Fulton Meat Market

## Not able to join us in person?



### Livestream

JCE will livestream its  
annual meeting. Visit  
[jcecoop.com/annual-meeting](http://jcecoop.com/annual-meeting)  
for more information.



### Radio broadcast

The annual meeting will be  
broadcast on WCCI 100.3FM.

# JCE Co-op Annual Meeting

 **JCE CO-OP**  
Electric • Gas • Fiber  
P.O. Box 390 | Elizabeth, IL 61028

PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 609

**Thursday  
June 20 | 6 p.m.**

Saint Malachy School  
595 E Ogden Ave  
Geneseo, IL

**Registration  
begins at 4:30 p.m.**

Special displays will feature  
co-op programs and services


**Geothermal Power Hour  
4:30–5:30 p.m.**

**Member appreciation  
dinner 7 p.m.**

Pork chop sandwich dinner  
Fulton Meat Market

## Registration card

This label above will be used in registration and awarding of Annual Meeting prizes.

800.858.5522 | [jcecoop.com](http://jcecoop.com) | Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# THANK YOU

for being a JCE member and owner—  
*we appreciate you!*