HI-LINES HI-LINES A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS

i Elizabeth, Illinois

(**\$**) 800-858-5522

(
 www.jocarroll.com



18C Annual Meeting

Don't miss it! Monday, June 5 at the West Carroll High School in Savanna



18D Board elections Results will be announced at the annual meeting.



18H 2023 Youth Day Students represent Jo-Carroll at the Capitol

Working together to reduce costs

One of our biggest events of the year is coming up next month when we host our Annual Meeting of Members on Monday, June 5. I always look forward to this event because it is a great opportunity for me and other co-op employees to talk with you and hear what's on your mind.

I hope you'll join us for the meeting which will take place at the West Carroll High School in Savanna. More details about the meeting can be found inside this issue and in the annual report you'll soon receive.

Whether you attend in person or online, thank you for getting involved in your co-op. Your participation means so much to us and is reflected in this year's theme, Together Toward Tomorrow.

As we navigate the challenges and changes in the coming years, we can work together to meet the longterm needs of all Jo-Carroll Energy members by helping to manage wholesale power costs, especially during high-priced periods. These periods typically occur during extreme weather events such as very hot days in the summer - or very cold days in winter. With summer around the corner, if you can shift your usage (i.e., electric dryer, water heater, dishwasher) to a period outside a peak energy use event, we can all save money.

Electricity generation and transmission costs are a pass through to you. Approximately 65% of your electric bill is made up by the cost of wholesale



power. Wholesale power costs are usually most expensive when the demand for electricity is at its peak. Our generation and transmission cooperatives issue **peak alerts** to shift electricity use away from these peak demand times to times of less demand when electricity prices are lower.

Peak alerts are different from maximum generation or "max gen" events, which are called by the regional grid operator - the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) - for grid reliability reasons. These can be called at any time and with minimal advance notice. If we ask members to conserve electricity during a max gen event, shortage of electricity is critical and a reduction of use is necessary to help MISO avoid implementing additional steps in an emergency plan. These events can evolve rapidly and - in the most extreme scenarios - potentially result in controlled outages – or rolling blackouts - if the grid is at risk of collapsing (the production of electricity cannot keep up with electricity demand).

As we become more connected with you whether through social media, email, or text messaging we will have the opportunity to share

Continued on page 18C ►

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn Chairman District 7

Russell Holesinger Vice Chairman District 8

Marcia Stanger Secretary District 3

Robert Kuhns Treasurer District 10 Jerry Meyer District 1

Joseph Mattingley District 2

> Dan Tindell District 4

Patricia Smith District 5

Thomas Lundy District 6

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 www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call: (800) 858-5522

Resume of Minutes

February 28, 2023

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

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.

Presentation One – Paula Keck, Graphic Design and Marketing Coordinator, and Peggy Francomb, Director of Marketing & Communications presented the Annual Meeting Report Cover with the theme of "Together Toward Tomorrow".

Safety Moment – A Safety Moment was provided by Director Jerry Meyer on the importance of knowing how to perform CPR. Jerry provided scenarios and discussed the use of Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's), and its ease of use.

Presentation Two – Ken Sivertsen, Director of Member Services, provided information and statistics on member bill payment methods, including use of Jo-Carroll Energy Offices.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review

Governance Talk Video – A Governance Talk Video on "Effective Member Advisory Groups" was presented.

Board Policy Review

I. A motion was made by the Policy Committee to approve Board Policy 108.1/Communication and Support to the Board, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

II. A motion was made by the Policy Committee to table Board Policy 108.2/ Position Description/JCE Board Chair for further review.

III. A motion was made by the Governance Committee to approve Board Policy 108.3/President and CEO Succession Planning, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

IV. A motion was made by the Governance Committee to approve Board Policy 109/Signing of Documents, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

V. A motion was made by the Governance Committee to approve Board Policy 109.1/Delegation of Authority, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

VI. A motion was made by the Governance Committee to approve proposed revisions to the bylaws related to District representation, which was seconded and carried unanimously. The proposed bylaw revisions will be presented to the membership during the June 5th annual meeting.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO Mike Casper noted that the 2023 budget factored in the past two years of higherthan-normal inflation, which considers the backlog of supplies with backlogs of up to 3 years. In addition, Casper commented on the Member Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting that will be scheduled in March and topics of discussion for the meeting.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the financial operating report for January. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$6.8 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$5 million, which is approximately \$614,000 under budget of \$5.6 million. Margins are approximately \$753,000 vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$323,400 and amounts to \$430,000 over budget. 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 update on the recent ice storm that affected the JCE service territory. Kyle noted that our cooperative was very well prepared for the storm and the crews did an amazing job, especially considering the number of outages scattered throughout our electric service territory. In addition, Buros reported on the continuous planning and work that is being done to prepare for added electrification and distributed energy resources.

Continued on page 18F 🕨

Continued on page 18F

Plan to attend the 84th Annual Meeting of Members

All Jo-Carroll Energy members are invited to attend the 84th Annual Meeting of Members on Monday, June 5 at the West Carroll High School in Savanna.

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

with the business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a pork chop sandwich dinner.

Remember to bring the registration card from the 2023 Annual Report that was mailed to members 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 Eric Hobbie, president and CEO of Prairie Power, Inc.

One bylaw amendment will be considered. The proposed change is to "Article IV Directors". This Bylaw amendment provides flexibility and guidance to the Board of Directors in the event that 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 to be in the Bylaws. The wording change can be found in the Annual Report, which mem-

bers will receive in May.

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 be in attendance with at least one parent or guardian. Members who can't attend are invited to submit questions in advance at jocarroll.com/annual-meeting and will be entered into a drawing for bill credits.

We encourage families to attend the 2023 annual meeting! A kids' area with special activities for children ages 5-12 will be available during the business session. We'll have safety demonstrations, games, and more for our future co-op members. We will have hot dogs available to be served during the appreciation meal.

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.



OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 29 FOR THE HOLIDAY.

CEO's report continued from page 18C

information with you in real time of these events. And, as you become more connected with your home using the internet of things (IoT), you will have the opportunity to control usage of devices and shift or reduce usage.

For example, if you are not at home and have a wifi enabled thermostat and receive a notification from us, you could use your smartphone to increase the temperature in your home during a summer event. As we continue to grow our fiber network and the IoT expands to more appliances that consume electricity, there will be limitless opportunities that will allow you to control or shift your usage and help you and our other members save on their electric bills.

Members to elect three directors; two contested elections

Three directors on the Jo-Carroll Energy board are up for election in 2023 including Districts 3, 6, and 9, 2 are contested elections. Because there are two candidates for Districts 3 and 6 ballots will be mailed to members in that district.

Seeking election as the District 3 director is Marcy Stanger, the incumbent, who was appointed the post in 2005, and Allen Hendren who has been a Jo-Carroll member for 34 years.

Seeking election as the District 6 director is Tom Lundy, the incumbent, who was appointed to the board in 1990, and Elaine Deak Rooker, P.E., a Jo-Carroll member since 2015.

Seeking re-election to the board unopposed is District 9 Director Larry Carroll.

Members who live in Districts 3 and 6 should carefully review the election materials. Election materials will be mailed or will be available online starting 9:00 am on May 2nd. Ballots are to be completed online or returned by Wednesday May 31st, 2023.

Results of the Districts 3 and 6 elections will be announced at the Annual Meeting. The District 9 director will be elected by a vote of acclamation at the annual meeting.



DISTRICT 3 Marcia "Marcy" Stanger 13A17 Rawhide Ct., Apple River, IL

Marcy Stanger and her husband, Bob, have been Jo-Carroll Energy members since 1991 when they moved from Fox River Grove, IL to Apple Canyon Lake.

They have four children, twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The couple has always been active in community affairs and believe in "paying it forward," giving their time and talents.

Marcy has served on PTAs, Jaycees and Lioness groups. She has also served as a Fox River Grove Trustee and a board of director on the ACL property Owners Association, both for 6 years.

Since her election to the Jo-Carroll Board of directors in 2005 she has regularly attended regional and national conferences sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative.

Marcy has earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications. She currently serves as the secretary of the JCE Board and is on the Executive Committee.

She believes in the board being open and transparent. "We serve our members as the mission statement states" Marcy said. "Jo-Carroll exists to enhance the quality of life for our members, while supporting the lowest possible rates, the services must be fiscally responsible, affordable, be reliable services, and promote strong safety practices."

She is passionate about seeing the growth in Jo-Carroll Energy continue and is an advocate for extending services such as Sand Prairie fiber even further. "I have welcomed new members over recent years in Stockton and Scales Mound who now have Sand Prairie internet." She speaks. "District 3 continues to cover Apple Canyon Lake and parts of Apple River, Elizabeth and Woodbine; even a few homes in Council Hill and north of Galena. This is a multi-faceted, awesome District and I am so proud to be the representative."

Marcy wants to continue representing her community in this organization along with this educated, experienced leadership board. "With the ever-changing times, never have the utility industries been so challenged" says Marcy "This board is dedicated to do our best to guide us all through these uncertain years. The guide is the Cooperative Principle; fiscally responsible, reliable services and safety for all.



DISTRICT 3 Allen Hendren 7A77 Lookout Drive Apple River, IL 61001

Allen Hendren is seeking election as the District 3 Jo-Carroll Energy Board member. Allen has been a member of Jo-Carroll for 34 years. Originally from Ventura California he attended Valparaiso University in Indiana graduating in 1986 with a teaching degree. Allen met his wife Barbara, who is from Elizabeth Illinois, while at Valparaiso University. Allen and Barbara were blessed to be able to move to Jo Daviess County in 1988 and have been full time residents ever since.

Allen has served on several board of directors including the Safe Haven Animal Shelter board, President of the Schapville Zion Lutheran Church board, co-chair of the ACL Trails Commission and chair of the ACL Deer Management Commission.

When asked why he is running for the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors Allen said "I feel I can bring three things to the Jo-Carroll Energy Board. A tireless work ethic, fresh perspective and ideas, and most importantly the understanding of what it is like to live and raise a family in rural Jo Daviess County and the importance of a reliable and affordable electrical and broadband infrastructure." Allen and his wife Barbara have lived at Apple Canyon Lake since 1989 raising two adult children who both live in rural Jo Daviess County. Allen is an active outdoorsman who loves fishing, hunting, gardening, and taking his two large dogs on long walks in the country with his wife. He has a deep love of the land and nature and feels protecting it is one of the most important undertakings in life.



DISTRICT 6 Elaine Deak Rooker, P.E. 9583 Messmer Rd Savanna, IL 61074

Elaine Deek Rooker, P.E. is seeking election to the Jo-Carroll Energy District 6 Directorship. Elaine has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since 2015.

A graduate of the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1975, she then continued to Keller Graduate School to receive her MBA in 1987 and then her MPM in 1997. She has worked as a P.E. in mechanical engineering since 1981.

Elaine's work experience includes work with the natural gas pipeline with MidCon Corporation, Consulting and Building Management for Abbott Laboratories, Project Engineer at Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Senior Staff Engineer at International Code Council, and Mechanical Engineer/ Program Manager at McKissack & McKissack.

She has served with other boards and organizations including the International Green Construction Code, Fellow Status of American Forensic Engineering and testified as building failure witness and served as the engineering chairperson of the Technical Association of Paper Pulp Industry. She has been a Professional Engineer for 42 years.

Elaine stated she is running for the board of directors because she believes her engineering and project management experience and education would be beneficial. "I would like to give back to District 6 the help I received as a care giver to Alfred Rooker, my husband, who had Parkinsons and Dementia of Lewey Bodies," she said. "From the Savanna residents I received encouragement and help to Al that I want to give back in this position. Al passed away in February 2022. I have the time, work experience and education and look forward to the opportunity to give back to the members of District 6 and all the members of Jo-Carroll Energy"



DISTRICT 6 Tom Lundy 17861 Airhart Road Savanna, IL 61074

Tom Lundy has served on the Jo-Carroll Energy board since he was elected March 10, 1990. He resides in rural Savanna and is a family man and a farmer.

Tom graduated from Savanna High School in 1955. After high school, he attended Cornell College located in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where he received a degree in chemistry. Following college graduation, Tom served in the Marine Corps and was stationed just 36 miles from Washington, D.C., at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia.

Tom and his wife, Priscilla, operate a grain and beef cattle farm in rural Savanna. They are the parents of four grown children and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren.

Tom enjoys fishing and has a small pond on the farm. But his real passion is the farm which keeps both he and Priscilla busy and active.



DISTRICT 9 Larry Carroll 1104 Locust Street Thomson, IL 61285

Larry Carroll has been a Jo-Carroll Energy member since 2007 and served as a director of Jo-Carroll for 12 years. In that time, he completed the required courses to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director and many natural gas maintenance and technology classes.

Larry worked for Interstate Power/Alliant Energy for 36 years in natural gas maintenance and regulations. Larry has been continually active in the Thomson community. He has been a trustee of the Thomson Fire Department for over 15 years and spent approximately 25 years with the Thomson Police Department, 20 as the Chief of Police.

Jo-Carroll Energy is a member of the American Public Gas Association (APGA). Larry has served on the APGA Board out of Washington D.C. for 6 years. He is serving on the APGA's Codes and Standards, Operations and Safety, Communications and Marketing Committees.

When asked why he wants to continue to serve the Jo-Carroll Energy Board he stated, "I want to make sure our members have a choice in what they choose to use as their energy whether it be electric, natural gas, or renewable energies and to deliver to our members safe and reliable utility solutions to our members and communities."

Larry and his wife, Carolyn, are the parents of five boys. He enjoys fishing, working in his yard, detailing cars and spending time with family and friends.

Manufacturing and Trades Day

Jo-Carroll Energy in partnership with Northwest Illinois Economic Development and the Jo Daviess Carroll Career Technical Education Academy participated in Manufacturing and Trades Day on March 15.

Manufacturing and Trades Day is an event in which manufacturers open their doors for site visits, and trades companies lead learning sessions, to showcase the potential of their industries. The goal is to create interest in the different careers that our local area has to offer.

"This event takes the veil off manufacturing careers," said David Schmit, regional director of NW Illinois Economic Development. "We were able to grow the scope of the event this



year by having more businesses participate and offering higher quality manufacturing visits."

Seven high schools from both Carroll and Jo Daviess counties participated. The combination of schools sent approximately 225 students to learn from the 14 participating businesses. In addition to hearing from multiple businesses these students also heard from two area community colleges on educational opportunities and 2 regional agencies that offer apprenticeship programs.

"Since the event I have heard from three businesses that already have possible hires from this event," said Schmit.

Jo-Carroll Energy had employees presenting careers as an electric line worker, a broadband tech, and a natural gas technician. Each employee brought their trucks and the equipment that they use in their everyday jobs. Our HR department was also present sharing interview and hiring skills with the students.

"Jo-Carroll is always one of our biggest supporters," said Schmit "Not just with this program but in the development and growth of our communities overall."

Minutes continued from page 18B

Member Services Update – V.P. of Member Services, Jennifer Meyer provided an update on the Strategic Planning process and associated initiatives.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – Terry Kurt, Outside General Counsel had nothing to add outside of the staff report.

Human Resources – Merri Sevey, V.P. of Human Resources provided an update on new hires and open positions at the cooperative.

Executive Assistant – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, provided information to the board on the upcoming NRECA Power Exchange Annual Meeting, noting that there was an app available to download to assist with meeting logistics.

Board Issues and Action Items

Discuss NRTC candidates to serve on the NRTC Board of Directors – The NRTC candidates were discussed, and a selection was made.

Designate Voting Delegate/ Alternate to cast vote at the CRC's Board of Directors Election (May 2023) held in conjunction with the CFC Annual Meeting – Director Dan Tindell was selected as the Voting Delegate to cast vote(s) in the CRC's Board of Directors Election.

Open Board Meeting Discussion – A date of October 25 was selected to hold an open board meeting at the cooperative. Official notice of the open board meeting will be posted closer to the date.

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 12:00 P.M.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 12:22 P.M.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Director Senn provided highlights from the AIEC Report and commented on the number of energy bills introduced to legislation.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll shared information on various new and proposed regulations affecting the natural gas (NG) industry and commented that the banning of NG in federal buildings was being considered.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley discussed the Dairyland Board Highlights and provided an update on future generation options that DPC are considering as part of their sustainability goals for 2030.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns had nothing to report outside of his written report.

Other Business - None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:45 P.M.

Budget billing accounts recalculate in May

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 the 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.

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

You begin paying the new budget amount in June.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing, your budget bill account or levelized billing, please contact the Member Services Department at 800-858-5522.

You can find more information on our website at jocarroll.com/ budget-billing.

Underground residential distribution inspections

Springtime means spring cleaning and inspections. Every year around the end of March Jo-Carroll Energy starts their underground residential distribution (URD) inspections. JCE works with contractor Karcz Utility Services of Wisconsin to perform these inspections.

This year, crews will work on URD inspections out of the Scales Mound and Guilford substations. The underground distribution lines for those stations are located in The Galena Territory and surrounding rural areas of Galena, Scales Mound, Elizabeth and Apple River.

Each year, approximately 10% of the co-op's underground facilities are inspected and maintained. Performing this periodic maintenance extends the life of our valuable underground assets and reduces the need for expensive replacements.

Karcz will open and inspect the pad-mounted transformers, sectionalizing cabinets (j-boxes) and secondary pedestals. While performing their inspections, crews will replace stickers, level cabinets, make minor repairs, remove obstructions both inside and outside of the cabinet and determine if painting is needed.

If additional work or painting needs to be completed on any of these boxes or transformers Karcz will return when the weather is warmer and more favorable for painting.

Partnerships with contractors like Karcz allow JCE to provide the best possible service to members and make sure all equipment is safe and operating properly.



Send us your best shots!

Jo-Carroll Energy members Jare invited to submit their best photos for our 2023 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 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 service area.

We will choose 12 photos to appear on the pages of our 2024 photo calendar along with front and back calendar pages. Several other photos may be selected as honorable mention.

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

Cooperative Youth Day 2023

For the first time since 2019, the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day returned following a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 200 students representing 22 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

Jo-Carroll Energy took two students from the co-op's service territory, Kyle Haas (Stockton) and Xander Vogel (Fulton), to participate. The students were accompanied by JCE employees Sara Lechowicz, digital media and events coordinator, and Jesse Shekleton, director of broadband operations. **6Jaqua113 Kajue**

"Youth Day is a great way for them to make connections and broaden their knowledge about other cooperatives and areas," said Sara Lechowicz.

The trip allowed students to meet public officials, state senators and representatives to learn why it is important for every citizen to get involved in government. Students also learn why supporting local cooperatives plays such an important role in the community. The

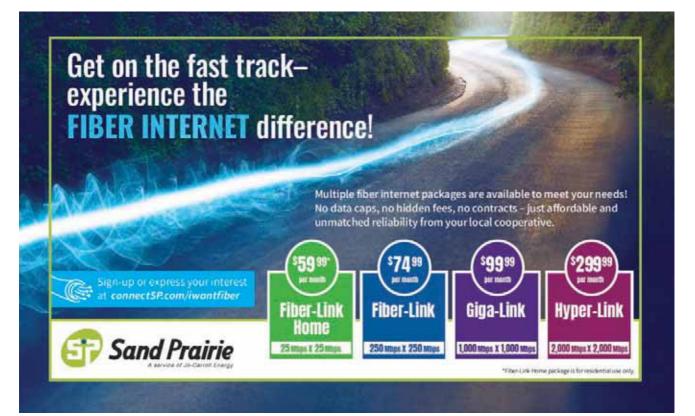


Kyle Haas (left) and Xander Vogel (right)

students also had a chance to meet the other participants from across the state.

Both Haas and Vogel were interviewed by members of AIEC to possibly be selected for this year's Youth Tour to Washington DC from June 16 - 23. The interview consists of questions relevant to getting to know each student such as their hobbies, if they've been to DC before and future plans. The benefits of Youth Tour give our students a chance to gain a personal understanding of American History, learn about the political process, and why their role as a future leader is so important in their communities.





Jo-Carroll Energy

2023 Annual Meeting of Members

toward tomorrow

Monday, June 5, 2023 West Carroll High School

500 Cragmoor Street Savanna, IL 61074 4:30 p.m. Member registration 6:00 p.m. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Dinner (details to come)

Check jocarroll.com/annual-meeting for updates.

Please RSVP

by May 5, 2023 via one of the following methods

| Name: | | dropbox k |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Member#: | located on your bill | Mail this for Elizabeth, |
| | | • Call 800-8 |
| # attending: Meeting Appreciated but not required | Dinner | To RSVP, to jocarrol |

- Return this form to any Jo-Carroll Energy office dropbox located in Elizabeth, Savanna or Geneseo
- Mail this form to PO Box 390, Elizabeth, IL 61028
- Call 800-858-5522 ext. 1208
- To RSVP, scan the QR code or go to jocarroll.com/annual-meeting



793 U.S. Route 20 West, P.O. Box 390 | Elizabeth, IL 61028 | jocarroll.com