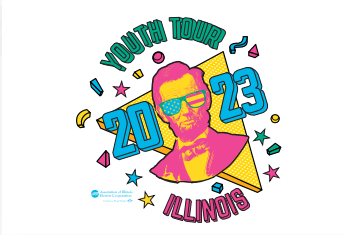


HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

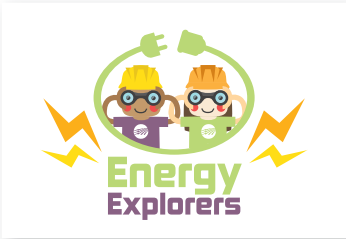
CONTENTS | Elizabeth, Illinois | 800-858-5522 | www.jocarroll.com



18C
Youth Tour to Washington
 Young leader represents Jo-Carroll Energy in D.C.



18D
Farm Progress Show
 Farm Progress Show returns to Decatur Aug. 29-31



18E
Energy Explorers
 Spot the biggest energy user!

Factors that impact your bill

Fuel price volatility and inflation impact everything from the price of a burger to the price of an airline ticket. Fuel price volatility directly affects the cost of the energy that we provide you with.

During Jo-Carroll Energy's annual meeting in June, a chart was presented that displayed the correlation of natural gas prices to electricity prices. They follow each other almost exactly. Between 2009 and 2021 natural gas and electricity prices were relatively low. Then energy markets, as well as inflation, spiked upward.

Since April 2023, electricity market prices have settled to more reasonable prices (at least through June, when this article was written), as have natural gas prices. You may have noticed that we have been providing you with a power cost adjustment (PCA) credit for the past several months because the price of power has been lower than what we had budgeted; we are passing those savings on to you.

Regrettably, many economists are projecting volatile energy prices ahead. So, what are Jo-Carroll and our wholesale power providers doing to reduce the impact on you? Our wholesale power providers own their generating facilities, which helps reduce your exposure to volatility in energy and capacity markets. As a member-owner of our wholesale power provider, Jo-Carroll and other distribution cooperatives have tasked



CEO'S REPORT
 by Mike Casper

our wholesale power cooperatives with providing long-term affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable electricity, while minimizing members' exposure to the real-time, up-and-down prices of the energy markets.

For our natural gas members, Jo-Carroll continues to layer in purchases of natural gas at favorable prices up to five years in advance. We also fill our available storage reserves. The purpose is to reduce your exposure to future natural gas price volatility.

Switching gears to fiber, we have a strategic buildout plan for the entire service area. You can follow our progress on connectsp.com. Other positive news is that we continue to purchase bandwidth at competitive prices, which allows us to increase symmetrical speeds in each of the fiber packages that we offer. We also added two additional packages. Please refer to page 18H for more information on these changes.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, we are directed by you through your board of directors, who you democratically elected. Objectives I have been given by your

Continued on page 18G ►

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

Dan Tindell
Secretary
District 4

Jerry Meyer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Allen Hendren
District 3

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

May 31, 2023

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Safety Moment – Pat Smith shared the dangers of a downed power line, stating that you should dial 911 and stay at least 100 feet from it.

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

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

Presentation – Director Schmit, Regional Director of Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED), presented a high-level overview of NWILED's strategic goals for years 2021 through the present. Next, he described the programs offered to local businesses and communicated the value, such as the Build It Grow It program, which provides "Business 101" workshops throughout Carroll, Jo Daviess and Whiteside Counties. Plans to relaunch the program are tentatively scheduled for 2024, starting in Galena and Savanna.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review

Governance Talk Video – A Governance Talk Video was presented on Maintaining Your Co-ops Bylaws, which is important for the board's role and governing responsibility.

Board Policy Review –

- i. **Board Policy 108.2 Position Description JCE Board Chair** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 108.2.
- ii. **Board Policy 110/Approval of Consultants** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to rescind Board

Policy 110. This policy was rolled into a new delegation of authority policy.

- iii. **Board Policy 112/Membership in Civic and Community** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 112.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO Mike Casper shared that the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit will continue through July and be reviewed monthly. Wholesale power prices continue to be less than budgeted, which has been favorable for our members.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the financial operating report for April. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$23 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$17.7 million, which is approximately (\$1,902,411) under budget of \$19.6 million. Margins are approximately \$2.4 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately (\$1,043,377) and amounts to \$3.4 million 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 Burns Road project. Buros also provided a fiber update, noting areas that are expected to be completed by year end. He also commented that the Lake Carroll Board unanimously selected Jo-Carroll/Sand Prairie as their preferred provider.

Continued on page 18G ►



Young leader represents Jo-Carroll Energy in D.C.



Xander Vogel met with Congressman Darin LaHood.

Fifty-three young leaders representing 24 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives boarded buses and departed for Washington, D.C. on June 16 for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA's) Youth to Washington Tour. They joined more than 1,800 youth delegates from across the nation for this annual tradition that has spanned nearly 60 years.

Xander Vogel of Fulton represented Jo-Carroll Energy during the all-expense-paid trip to D.C. from June 16-23, 2023. During Youth Tour, he had the opportunity to witness the government in action, meet elected officials, and see the sights of the capital city.

"Youth Tour is impactful in many ways," said Brooke Gross, Youth Tour coordinator for Illinois. "While these future leaders may have thought it was going to simply be a sightseeing trip to our nation's capital, they returned home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

The students visited Capitol Hill and Vogel met with Congressman Darin LaHood (R-16). The group also visited historical and cultural sites including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ford's Theatre, and many more memorials and historic sites.

The tour's bus ride to D.C. also allowed plenty of time for co-op education. The students formed the Chip 'N Pop Co-op and ran for seats on the board. The board then interviewed candidates and selected a manager. Traditionally, money made during the trip is returned to the students as capital credits. This year, the Chip 'N Pop Co-op members voted to donate the profits of more than \$200 back to the Youth Tour program.

In addition, students are encouraged to apply to become Illinois' Youth Leadership Council (YLC) representative. The YLC is a

year-long appointment, and Paris Van Dyke of Wabash Communications Co-op was voted by her peers to represent Illinois' cooperatives at national and state meetings and other events in the year ahead.

High school students who live within the service area of Jo-Carroll Energy are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop or [Facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](https://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington).

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions.

Farm Progress Show returns to Decatur Aug. 29-31



The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to invite you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will once again be held at Progress City in Decatur Aug. 29-31. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit located at Lot 217 on Second Street, between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue near Gates 7 and 8. Find us next to the Grain Systems Inc. display.

Representatives from Jo-Carroll Energy and several other Illinois electric cooperatives will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency and much more.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo and learn from an expert about electricity and how to stay safe

around electrical equipment. Linemen will be on hand doing pole-climbing demonstrations on a 60-foot pole.

Stop by the booth to check out electric vehicles or climb in a bucket for a photo. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections Card or show the Co-op Connections app on their device will receive a special gift.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will fly the American flag each morning of the show. Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For around 70 years, the Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and businesses together. It is where people



from all over gather to meet, observe and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings to agricultural families in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur, Illinois and Boone, Iowa.

SPOT THE BIGGEST ENERGY USER

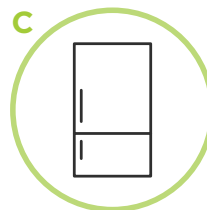
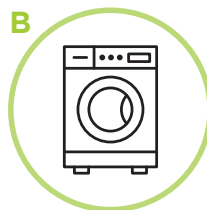
We use electricity every day, but we rarely think about the appliances and electronics that consume the most energy. Can you spot the biggest energy users?

Review each grouping below, then circle the one that you think consumes the most energy. Check your work in the answer key.



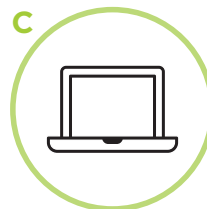
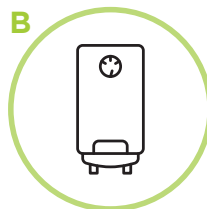
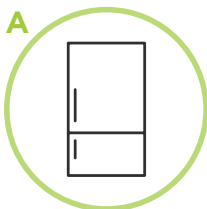
1.

- A) Heating and Cooling Unit
- B) Clothes Washer
- C) Refrigerator



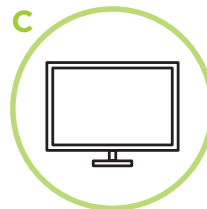
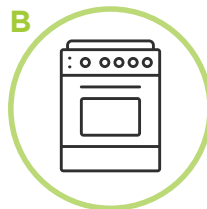
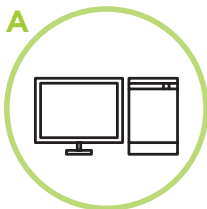
2.

- A) Refrigerator
- B) Water Heater
- C) Laptop Computer



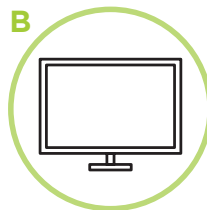
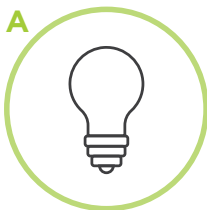
3.

- A) Desktop Computer
- B) Electric Oven
- C) TV



4.

- A) LED Lights
- B) TV
- C) Clothes Dryer



Answer Key: 1. A 2. B 3. B 4. C



Save Energy!

- Wash clothing in cold water and air-dry when possible.
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Unplug electronic devices when not in use.

Take charge of your safety at electric vehicle charging stations

The popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) has skyrocketed in recent years, with EV sales in the United States up from 160,000 in 2016 to 630,000 in 2021. Additionally, the number of publicly available EV charging stations in the United States reached 114,000 in 2021, compared to just 38,100 in 2016. With so many more EVs on the road, it is important to understand how to stay safe when charging your EV at a public charging station while also being courteous to those around you.

EV charging safety

Consider these safety tips from the U.S. Fire Administration when charging your EV at public charging stations:

- Read and be familiar with your EV owner's manual and follow all manufacturer's guidelines when charging your vehicle. If questions arise, contact your car dealership for more information.
- Plug the charger directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multiplug adapter or extension cord.
- Inspect all public charger cables prior to use. Never use an EV charger with obvious signs of damage, such as broken or fraying cords.
- When charging during rainy conditions, cover the EV charging station's outlet to stop water from entering. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is

safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

- Be aware of any recalls on your EV and follow all safety guidelines listed in the recall until the needed repair is completed by the dealership.

EV charging etiquette

Charging an EV can take up to several hours at public charging stations. To keep the flow of traffic moving as efficiently as possible and to extend courtesy to those around you, keep in mind the following recommendations:

- Be aware of your surroundings and do not skip in front of other EVs waiting to charge.
- Know which side your charging port is on and park accordingly.
- Do not park at an EV charging station if you do not intend to charge your vehicle.
- Never unplug someone else's EV in order to charge yours.
- Unplug your EV once it is done charging. Always keep track of time so that you can return and relocate your

vehicle to allow another EV to use that spot. Many charging stations will even charge extra fees if a vehicle is charged but still plugged in.

- Consider unplugging once you have enough charge to reach your destination.
- For cars capable of rapid charging, consider unplugging once your charge reaches 80%.
- Pay attention to posted signs and follow all instructions. For example, if a sign says there is a two-hour limit, do not stay longer.
- When you are done charging, place the charger back on the receptacle and neatly coil the cable. This helps keep it in good condition and prevents it from becoming a tripping hazard.

By following these simple guidelines, EV owners can help make every EV charging station a safe and efficient environment.

Jo-Carroll has EV charging stations located at our office in Savannah at 103 Chicago Ave. and just off of East Myrtle Street in Elizabeth next to the Apple River Fort Interpretive Center.



Minutes continued from page 18B

Member Services Update

– V.P. of Member Services Jennifer Meyer provided an update on the new billing cycle for broadband services that will be reduced from seven to one and will improve efficiencies within the organization. Communications will be sent to members in July about the change.

Human Resources Update – V.P. of Human Resources Merri Sevey provided an update on new internships and open positions available at the cooperative and the status of hiring for those opportunities. In addition, Sevey announced the new payroll system that will be implemented in October.

Executive Assistant Update – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, had nothing to add outside of her written staff report.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – Terry Kurt, General Counsel, shared an update related to a key court decision regarding Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). Casper added that letters were sent to our federal legislators requesting their support for streamlined permitting reform.

Board Issues and Action Items

Executive Assistant Amy Johnston provided logistic information for the upcoming Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting.

A Voting Delegate/Alternate was selected for the 82nd AIEC Annual Meeting.

The CFC Voting Delegate was reaffirmed.

A Director and Alternate Director were selected for the NRECA Director Election for Illinois.

A contribution in the amount of \$1,500 was approved for the NRECA International Fund to assist with bringing electricity to regions of the world without electricity.

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Director Senn reported that proposed NRECA Resolutions are due on June 23rd.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll shared information on various new and proposed regulations affecting the natural gas (NG) industry including a proposed gas stove ban.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley provided positive comments on DPC's Business Development group. He also shared information on future energy sources that DPC is considering for the future. In addition, he reminded the board of the upcoming DPC Annual Meeting.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns shared favorable operating statistics from PPI's electric generation assets. He also reminded the board of the upcoming PPI Annual Meeting.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

CEO's report continued from page 18A

board are growth and operational excellence, which will help stabilize future rates. A third objective is to enhance the value that we provide you to help improve your quality of life — for example, providing high-speed internet service.

Through your input, we continue to grow and improve the quality of services that we provide you. Thank you for your feedback and input. Working together toward tomorrow will ensure our success.

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.



Now we're even **FASTER!**

Starting July 3, Sand Prairie fiber subscribers will experience a speed increase at no additional cost.

Fiber - Link Home	Giga-Link	Giga-Link Plus	Hyper-Link
\$ 59⁹⁹/mo	\$ 74⁹⁹/mo	\$ 99⁹⁹/mo	\$ 149⁹⁹/mo
100 Mbps Download Speeds 100 Mbps Upload Speeds	1000 Mbps Download Speeds 1000 Mbps Upload Speeds	2000 Mbps Download Speeds 2000 Mbps Upload Speeds	5000 Mbps Download Speeds 5000 Mbps Upload Speeds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ No data caps and no contracts ✔ Managed Wi-Fi Router included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ No data caps and no contracts ✔ Managed Wi-Fi Router included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ No data caps and no contracts ✔ Managed Wi-Fi Router included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ No data caps and no contracts <i>Managed Wi-Fi Router not included</i>

As faster broadband speeds become available, your local co-op continues to work for its members to purchase bandwidth at competitive prices. This allows us to increase symmetrical speeds in each of the fiber packages we offer, providing increased value to give members an even better experience to work, learn and stream from home, work, or school.

Our Fiber-Link package has now become a 1 Gig plan (Giga-Link) and is still a member favorite and best value for those who need some of our fastest speeds. For members looking to up their game or boost speed even more, we now offer multi-gig speed packages.

Existing fiber members don't need to do anything to take advantage of these upgraded fiber internet speeds. This change applies only to Sand Prairie fiber packages and does not include wireless.

We are providing our members with this upgrade of fiber speeds to support the growing demand for cloud-based services, remote work and remote education. FCC data supports this by showing a trending increase in both home and business bandwidth use. Offering these upgraded fiber speeds enhances the future-proof characteristics of fiber by putting our members in a position where they can grow into high-bandwidth use.



Are you eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) by the FCC?

Sand Prairie is thrilled to announce a new fiber internet package now available to those eligible to enroll in the ACP program. This new package offers symmetrical speeds of 25 X 25 Mbps for \$34.99 a month. The ACP program provides eligible residents a \$30 monthly discount off the cost of broadband service. Check your eligibility at connectsp.com/acp#eligible.

Sign up or express your interest at

CONNECTSP.COM/IWANTFIBER



Sand Prairie

A service of Jo-Carroll Energy