

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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2023 Thanks for Giving Food Drive
Donations benefit area food banks

Co-ops give back

Thanksgiving is a time of giving and a time to express gratitude for the past year. JCE Co-op is grateful to you, our member consumers. Every day we work tirelessly to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable services that provide value to you.

As a not-for-profit rural co-op, we do not make a profit. Any funds left over each year are called margins and are assigned to members in the form of capital credits. The assignment is based proportionately on how much electricity, gas or internet service that you purchased in a given year.

Capital credit assignments are held in an account in your name until voted to be returned by the cooperative's board of directors. It represents your equity in the cooperative because you are a member-owner. Capital credits are a benefit of cooperative membership. In December each year, you may receive either a credit on your bill or a check in the mail.

In addition to the capital credit that you may receive, this year we have given back to our electric member consumers an additional credit through our power cost adjustment (PCA). The reason for this credit is that wholesale power prices were less than what was originally budgeted in November 2022. Because we are a not-for-profit co-op, we have been crediting those savings back to you for the past several months. As of the beginning of October, we have credited our electric member consumers with more than \$1.5 million dollars.



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

Giving back is a major part of our mission to serve our members and communities. Concern for Community, the seventh cooperative principle, is the heart and soul of who we are as a co-op.

That's why we support local organizations with donations through programs like Sharing Success Grants and other sponsorships. It is why we invest in economic development and support local Chambers of Commerce. It's also why we support our youth with scholarships and why you'll see our employees volunteering at community events.

This time of year, we're busy collecting donations for our annual Light Up the Holidays food drive and delivering them to the food pantries throughout our service area to assist families in need. During the year, employees also organize and donate during blood drives.

It takes commitment and hard work by everyone at your co-op to bring cooperative values to life. Giving back to the members and communities we serve is just one of the attributes of co-ops that I'm thankful for. All of us at JCE are thankful to be a part of our members' lives and for the privilege of serving you.

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

Aug. 30, 2023

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

Safety Moment — Director Al Hendren discussed safe use of electrical cords and the dangers associated with misuse of electrical cords.

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 — A Brand Identity Proposal was presented by Paula Keck, Graphic Design and Marketing Coordinator, and Derek Bradt, Broadband Marketing & Sales Administrator. In addition, a Broadband Market Analysis was presented.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review

Governance Talk Video — A Governance Talk video was shared with the board on "The Board's Role in Safety."

Board Policy Review

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 113/Political Activities.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 114/Contributions and Donations. **Richard Doyle**

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report — President and CEO Mike Casper discussed the ongoing rate analysis that will be presented to the board in November.

Financial Operating Report — Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the July financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$38.8 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$30 million, which is \$3,493,470 under budget of \$34 million. Margins are approximately \$2.9 million versus a budgeted amount of (\$241,365) and amounts to \$3.2 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 Natural Gas (NG) Burns Road project and other NG projects.

Member Services Update — V.P. of Member Services Jennifer Meyer discussed the latest trends in member services, such as e-bills and alerts. JCE continues to promote these services to our members.

Human Resources Update — Merri Sevey, V.P. of Human Resources, provided an update on new hires at the cooperative (new and replacements), noting that a new organizational chart will be updated soon.

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

External Affairs/Legislative Update — General Counsel Terry Kurt provided an update on a nuclear energy moratorium that Governor Pritzker implemented. In addition, Kurt noted that he will be receiving National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) legal briefs.

Board Issues and Action Items

Discuss Candidates for CFC District 5 Board of Directors — Candidates for the CFC District 5 Board of Directors were discussed.

EV Chargers Position Statement — The Position Statement for EV Chargers was presented to the board as part of a review process prior to the 2024 strategic planning session.

Brand Identity Proposal — A motion was made, seconded, and carried

Continued on page 18D ►

Honoring our past.



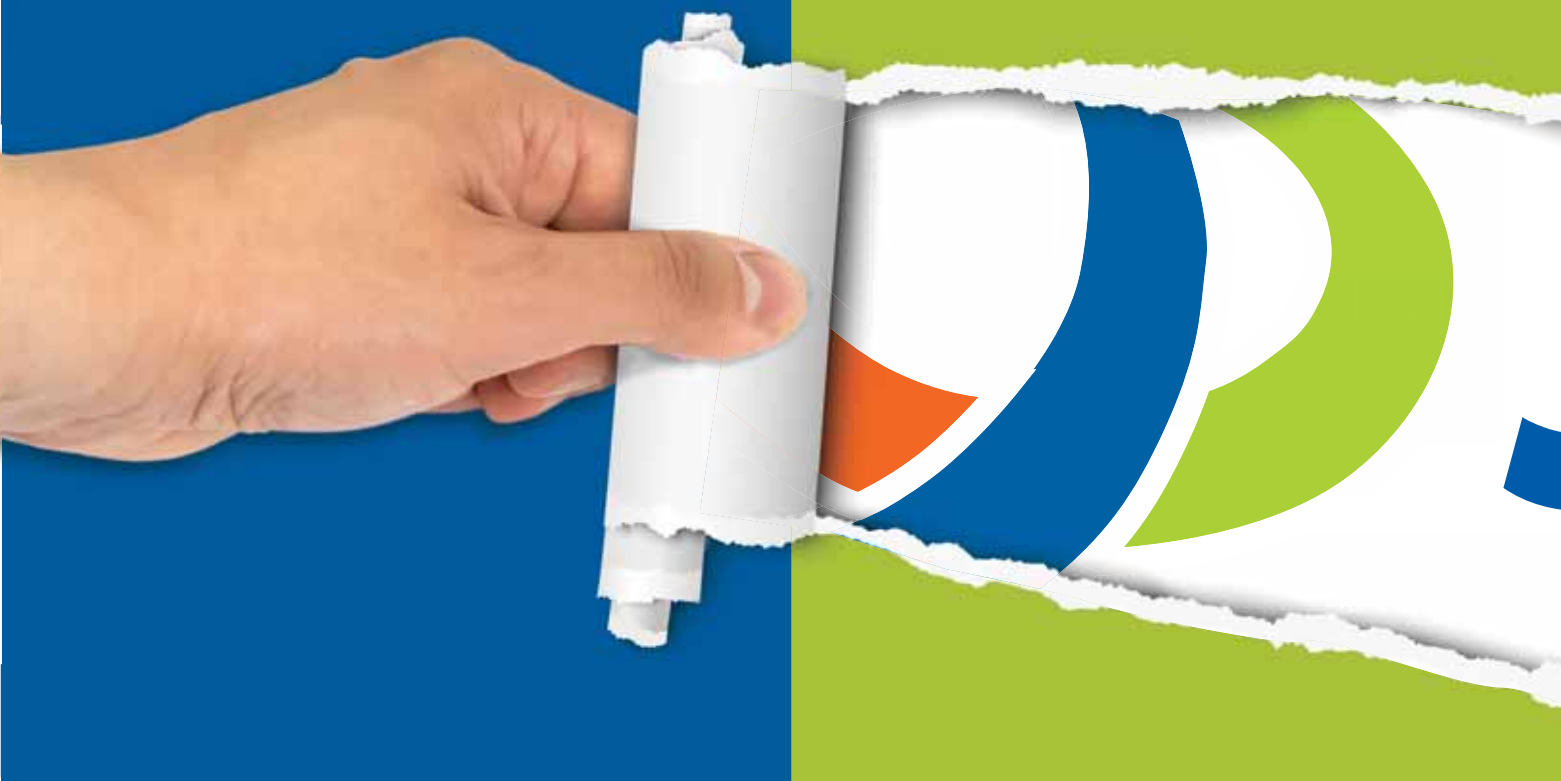
Jo-Carroll Energy

Looking to our future.



Sand Prairie

A service of Jo-Carroll Energy



In 2024, we celebrate our 85-year legacy — here is a sneak peek. Something exciting is happening with JCE and SP ... ***stay tuned!***

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Honoring our heroes

*In the September issue we requested members submit their stories.
Below is the submission we received.*

William R. Strand



U.S. AIR FORCE

William (Bill) Strand proudly served with the U.S. Air Force from 1965-1969.

During his time in the Air Force, he was a part of the Strategic Air Command and the Minuteman Missile program.

He received the National Defense Metal-Cold War and the Good Conduct Metal.

Thank you, Bill, for your service.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 reader-ship prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY

HOLIDAY ENERGY CREDITS

A wonderful gift for any Jo-Carroll Energy member!

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

Ask any of our member service representatives for more information 800.858.5522

Board minutes continued from page 18B

unanimously to approve the Brand Identity Proposal, Jo-Carroll Energy will be transitioning to a new name, "JCE Co-op," to better align our three (3) business units, Natural Gas, Electric and Broadband.

Admin Policy 402/Requirements for Service: Electric, Natural Gas, or Broadband — A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve minor updates to Admin Policy 402.

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

Out of Executive Session — A motion was made, seconded,

and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:36 a.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session — None.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report — Chairman Senn provided highlights from the AIEC Annual Meeting, noting that they will be increasing the number of scholarships.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) — Director Mattingley provided highlights from the Dairyland Board Meeting, as well as the strategic planning session.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report — Director Carroll discussed various new and proposed regulations affecting the natural gas (NG) industry.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report — Director Kuhns participated in the Alsey Generation Facility tour (located in Jacksonville, Ill.) and provided highlights from the tour. Director Hendren also participated in the tour.

Other Business — None.

Adjournment — Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Electric budget billing accounts to recalculate

Jo-Carroll Energy members with budget billing electric accounts will have their budget amounts recalculated in November.

Because a budget bill amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or accrued debits, this November true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease, depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to look at your November statement to see if your budget amount has changed. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will appear on your statement in blue indicating the new budget amount.

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 December.

Invoice billed members should remember that no messages will be printed on your bill statement whether the budget bill amount changes. **James L. and Vivian K. Eaton** If you would like to know your new budget bill amount, please call our offices between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or email us at info@jocarroll.com.

Budget billing can help you manage your energy costs by allowing you to allocate the same amount each month. Monthly utility bills can vary significantly throughout the year due to variations in your usage through heating and cooling seasons.

With JCE's budget billing plan you eliminate the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and use patterns. It is imperative that members on budget billing still watch their monthly use and outstanding balances to ensure a large increase does not occur during a recalculation month.

Levelized billing also available

JCE also offers a levelized billing program. Under this plan, each monthly bill is the rolling average of your electric use for the most recent 12 months, thus eliminating true-up months.

This means you will not pay the exact same amount every month, but it will be close to the

same. The amount you owe some months will be more than the average; other months it will be less.

Over the year, you will have paid what you owe. Levelized billing does not reduce your bill; it helps you manage your utility payments.

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 also find more information about various payment options on our website at jocarroll.com.

Neighbor to Neighbor Care Fund offers help

If you need assistance paying your energy bill this winter, help may be available through Jo-Carroll Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Care Fund.

This program works in tandem with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Members must first apply for LIHEAP funds to be considered.

If funds are available, you may receive a grant from the Neighbor to Neighbor Care Fund. To find out if you qualify, contact your respective agency to start the application process:

- Jo Daviess County: Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA), 815-232-3141
- Carroll and Whiteside counties: Tri-County Opportunities Council, 800-323-5434
- Henry County Project Now, 309-852-4565



Jo-Carroll Energy, statewide scholarship applications open

Jo-Carroll Energy will award up to \$25,000 to students from its service territory through its scholarship program. In addition, Illinois electric cooperatives in 2024 will award 14 academic scholarships to high school seniors from across Illinois through a memorial scholarship fund.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarship Program

The JCE Scholarship Program includes four different scholarships for graduating high school seniors:

- Six Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000
- Four \$1,000 scholarships for students who will attend two-year technical or trade schools
- Two lineworker scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each
- 10 Director's Scholarships of \$500 each.

In addition, JCE offers four \$1,500 scholarships for adult students who have not previously pursued post-high school education. These scholarships are available to current JCE members in good standing and have graduated high school before 2021. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted to an accredited post-secondary school or program that would lead to their first degree, certification or licensure.



The deadline to apply for all scholarships, except the Director's Scholarships, is March 1, 2024. The deadline for Director's Scholarships is May 1, 2024.

Applications and complete details can be found at jocarroll.com/scholarship-opportunities. For more information or assistance, email communications@jocarroll.com or call Peggy Francomb, director of marketing and communications, at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218.

IEC Memorial Scholarships

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 17 scholarships in 2024 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. These scholarships, \$2,000 each, are awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

- Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member.
- One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.
- Five additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are an Illinois cooperative member, employee or director.
- The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield.

Complete details, deadlines and application links for JCE and IEC scholarships can be found at jocarroll.com/scholarship-opportunities. For more information or questions, email communications@jocarroll.com or call Peggy Francomb, director of marketing and communications, at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218.



THANKS for GIVING

Food Drive 2023

Elizabeth

793 U.S. Route 20 W.

Savanna

103 Chicago Av.

Geneseo

1004 S. Chicago St.

PLEASE DONATE.

Donations of nonperishable items accepted at our offices.



Jo-Carroll Energy

BEGINS: Wednesday, Nov. 1



ENDS: Friday, Dec. 1

Donations will benefit: Albany Food Pantry, East Dubuque Food Pantry, Elizabeth Food Basket, Erie Food Pantry, Geneseo Food Pantry, Hanover Food Pantry, Helping Hands Food Pantry, Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food Pantry, Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry, United Churches of Galena, Warren Township Food Pantry



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Crystal clear and affordable residential and business phone service

Sand Prairie phone service offers the peace of mind, quality and clarity of a phone line for a fraction of the cost of a traditional landline for your home or business. Phone service is full of features including unlimited local and nationwide calling, no contracts or long-term commitment requirements. You can get a new number or keep your existing number.

Calling features (at no additional cost) include:



Unlimited local and nationwide calling

Includes all 50 states and Canada.

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See who's calling

Name and number ID allows you to see who might be trying to call.



Three-way calling

If you ever need to quickly add someone to a call without any effect on your reception, it's never been easier.



"Leave me a message"

Voicemail comes standard. Simply set up your mailbox and you're ready to go.

Sand Prairie Residential Phone includes:

- ✓ Unlimited calling, voicemail, call waiting, caller ID, three-way calling & other features
- ✓ Keep your existing number or get a new number¹
- ✓ No contract or long-term commitment required²
- ✓ E-911 emergency calling

\$30/mo.

Price includes all applicable taxes, initial phone hardware and installation²

Sand Prairie Business Phone includes:

- ✓ Unlimited calling, voicemail, call waiting, caller ID, three-way calling & other features
- ✓ Keep your existing number or get a new number¹
- ✓ No contract or long-term commitment required
- ✓ E-911 emergency calling

\$40/mo.

\$20 for each additional line

Price includes all applicable taxes, one phone base station or ATA and installation.

Need SIP Trunking or to replace a PBX? Additional questions?
Please call and ask for our Business Help Center for assistance.

If you are located within an in-service fiber neighborhood and are interested in Sand Prairie Phone, you can sign-up now at connectSP.com/iwantfiber or call 800-858-5522.



Sand Prairie

A service of Jo-Carroll Energy

☎ 800-858-5522 🌐 connectSP.com 📍 793 US 20 West, Elizabeth, IL 61028

¹ Keeping your existing number is dependent upon service market and location. VoIP and fiber broadband services are not available in all areas.

² **Bundle and save.** Installation fee of an additional \$13/month for six months is required of Fiber-Link Home subscribers. Or for \$15/month you can upgrade to the Giga-Link package and enjoy 10x faster internet speeds and receive free phone installation.