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Enjoy this educational word search!

## Bringing Co-op Value

### Improving the quality of life

In the past I've shared the value that I believe JCE Co-op brings to you. Recently, a writer and their digital media crew from our national association sat down with several of our members to gain a better understanding of the value that we bring to businesses and all our members here in Northwest Illinois.

In this month's column I would like to share several of their comments that illustrate the broad community impact of our fiber internet; comments like these provide us with our drive and purpose.

- There's just a different level of trust. They've proven themselves to be very reliable, dependable and member-oriented — both on electricity and in fiber broadband.
- Getting fiber was a huge benefit for our members. People want it for the kinds of activities that fiber can support. Everyone wants to be able to work someplace where they can take advantage of outdoor activities. Being able to have reliable internet, people can work from home.
- Having local member service representatives that you can get on the phone and talk through the process is beneficial.
- With JCE Co-op's broadband, we are getting 25 times the speed up and down for less than half the cost that we were previously paying. Now we can compete on a global



**CEO'S REPORT**  
by Mike Casper

scale from a small town in rural Illinois. With JCE Co-op, you get that feeling that they are there to help rather than extract commerce from you. It's a welcoming feeling.

- Right now, we have projects all over the country and people all over the country. Because of the stability of the fiber, it works quite well. We can grow where we are — to do the work we want to do with the quality we want — because of fiber. It's one less thing for me to worry about as a business owner, and there's a lot of value in that.
- Having fast, reliable internet has helped attract sought-after staff to meet the thriving community's healthcare needs. With fiber the quality of life has drastically improved in the area for people to access information and to get quality care without having to travel outside our area — especially seniors who may not have transportation.
- Since the co-op started delivering high-speed internet, efficiency has improved, including smart technology to check remote instrumentation and security. Smart technology can track information at multiple locations, keep operations running smoothly, message board staff and enable precision agriculture.

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## For your information

### Your Board of Directors:

**David Senn**

Chairman

District 7

**Jerry Meyer**

Vice Chairman

District 1

**Robert Kuhns**

Treasurer

District 10

**Dan Tindell**

Secretary

District 4

**Joseph Mattingley**

District 2

**Allen Hendren**

District 3

**Patricia Smith**

District 5

**Thomas Lundy**

District 6

**Ted James**

District 8

**Larry Carroll**

District 9

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday

**Elizabeth**

793 U.S. Route 20 West

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Savanna**

103 Chicago Ave.

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4 p.m.

**Geneseo**

1004 S. Chicago St.

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4 p.m.

**Services and Billing Questions:**

(800) 858-5522

jcecoop.com

**For emergencies and outages call:**

(800) 858-5522

# Resume of Minutes

June 26, 2024

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

**Safety Moment** – Director Meyer presented information from the U.S. Fire Administration on carbon monoxide safety and what can be done to help protect your family from the dangers, such as installing carbon monoxide detectors with a digital readout, plus alarm.

**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 items, including the May 29, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes/Summary, Discounted Estate Retirements, and the board expense summary. **Riley K Oostenryk**

**Presentation** – None.

**Governance Topics and Board Policy Review** – None.

**Governance Talk Video** – None.

**Board Policy 116/Member – Non-Member Request for Information** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 116.

**Board Policy 119/Nepotism** – Will be brought back to the Governance Committee for further review.

**Board Policy 122/Employment Practice** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to rescind Board Policy 122.

### CEO/Financial Operating Report

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Mike Casper shared with the board and senior staff highlights from the recent combined ACES Power Marketing, Federated Insurance, and Cooperative Financial Corporation (CFC) Annual Meetings. Topics included a power market update, geopolitical, broadband, and the energy landscape.

**Financial Operating Report** – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the May financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$28.3 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$21.6 million, which is (\$1,955,835) under the budget of \$23.6 million. Margins are approximately \$2.7 million. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

### Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

**Operations Update** – Kyle Buros, Senior VP & Chief Operating Officer, provided a progress update on the Fiber Expansion Project. In addition, Buros shared information on electric and natural gas growth.

**Member Services Update** – Jennifer Meyer, VP of Member Services, shared the Strategic Planning Roadmap. She also noted ways to promote the reliability of our services and highlighted opportunities to assist seniors with safe internet usage. In addition, Meyer noted the success of the JCE Co-op Annual Meeting that was held in Geneseo on June 20th.

**Human Resources** – VP of Human Resources Merri Sevy provided the board with an update on new employees, including six interns, and additional openings. She noted the importance of hiring summer interns to complete special projects, as well as introduce our younger population to JCE Co-op.

**Technology Update** – VP and Chief Technology Officer Dan Marcure provided an information technology structure overview of JCE Co-op, which included data analytics and the use of technology to enhance operational efficiencies.

### External Affairs/Legislative Update

– General Counsel Terry Kurt discussed his recent experience at the national broadband conference and provided an overview of the bylaw amendments that were approved during the recent annual meeting.

### Board Issues and Action Items

**Certify/Designate Badger Annual Meeting Attendees and Delegates** – Badger Annual Meeting Attendees and Delegates were selected.

**Select Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) Annual Meeting Attendees** – Attendees were selected for the PPI Annual Meeting.

**Certify/Designate PPI Director/Alternate Director to Serve on the PPI Board of Directors (representing each class A member)**

– Bob Kuhns was selected as the Director and Jerry Meyer will serve as the Alternate Director on the PPI Board of Directors.

**Into Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:59 a.m.

**Out of Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:31 a.m.

**Action Resulting from Executive Session** – None.

### Reports/Updates

**Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report**

– Director Senn shared highlights from the AIEC Board of Directors meeting, which included new rules on disconnects.

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)** – Director Mattingley

provided highlights from the DPC annual meeting, noting that a representative from Midcontinent System Operator (MISO) presented, emphasizing the importance of dispatchable resources to support the stability of the electric grid.

**American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report**

– Director Carroll discussed topics affecting the natural gas industry, specifically regulations that may affect consumer choice. In addition, he shared that a long-delayed NG pipeline expansion in the east central part of the U.S. has been completed, which will help reduce NG constraints in that region.

**Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report**

– Director Kuhns shared a summary from the PPI Board highlights.

**Annual Meeting Board**

**Roundtable Discussion** – The JCE Annual Meeting was held in Geneseo on July 20th. It was noted that the meeting was well organized and the presentation on electric grid reliability and the value of a diverse energy mix was well received.

**Member Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting**

– Director Meyer attended the JCE Co-op MAC Meeting and provided highlights and suggestions from the meeting.

**Other Business** – None.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

### CEO's report continued from page 18A

- It keeps people connected. Not only is it fast, but it is also reliable. If there is an issue, when I call JCE Co-op, they recognize your number or your voice, and the same four or five guys or gals help you out.
- It allows us to be confident and stay here knowing that we are not behind the times. It attracts new people knowing they can have the quality of life they want. People feel more comfortable and encouraged to move their primary home or business here, because we have more reliable internet now.
- I can't think of an instance where we asked JCE Co-op for support and they weren't there to sponsor an event or to be there. Being from a small town, people have a huge appreciation for those who want to give back to the community.





# THANK YOU members!

*Please join us!*



## Member Appreciation Days

Lunch

Pork chop  
sandwiches  
hot dogs | chips  
cookies | drinks  
.....  
Games & prizes!

Savanna | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Monday | September 23**  
103 Chicago Ave

Geneseo | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Tuesday | September 24**  
1004 S. Chicago St

Elizabeth | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Wednesday | September 25**  
Terrapin Park

Watch for an additional event  
in Whiteside County!  
**Date—To be determined**

 **JCE CO-OP**  
Electric • Gas • Fiber

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Managed IT Services



## Reliable, highly responsive IT support for your business

Get the support and services you need for all your computers, networks, servers and IT infrastructure – all for one low monthly rate with your co-op.

- Servers (Pro-active)
- Desktop (Pro-active)
- Firewall
- Switches
- Online backup
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# — SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL — **PREPAREDNESS MONTH**



**F**or us in the Midwest, the sudden onset combined with the unpredictable impacts of natural and man-made incidents underscore the urgent need for everyone to be prepared.

JCE Co-op knows that incidents can happen suddenly and unexpectedly in the communities that we serve to members like you. We have read the news about or experienced firsthand tornado outbreaks, river floods or flash floods, wildfires and smoke, water main breaks and power outages affecting numerous people for days at a time. Police, fire and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly. The most important step you can take in helping your local responders is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care.

Everyone needs to take proactive steps to be ready for future incidents. If we all plan today, we will be ready for tomorrow.

Every JCE CO-OP member and their loved ones can be ready. It does not have to be an expensive undertaking, or even happen all at once. It's about doing what you can with what you have. You may be more prepared than you think!

### Being ready means three things:

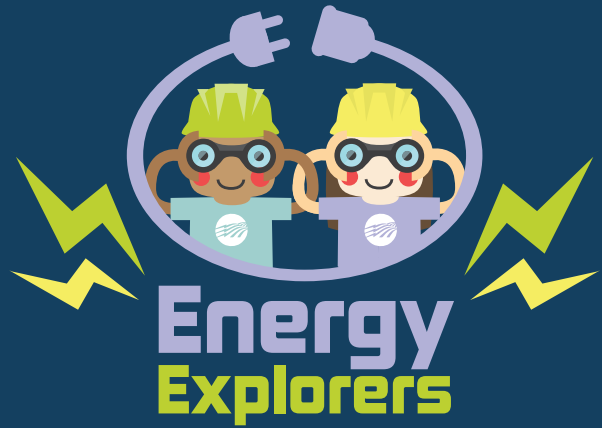
1. Having an incident response plan;
2. Staying informed and aware of the various risks we face; and
3. Knowing how to get information during an emergency.

There are many practical low-cost and no-cost actions our members can take today to be ready for tomorrow, including:

- ✓ Sign up or update your mobile phone contact information to receive local emergency alerts.
- ✓ Enable FEMA Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile phone.
- ✓ Understand and identify applicable evacuation routes in your area.
- ✓ Make a personal emergency plan that outlines what to do before, during and after an incident. Remember to include in your plan consideration for pets and livestock.
- ✓ Practice your emergency plan with everyone in the household and talk about it with your extended family, friends and neighbors.
- ✓ Create and practice a family communication plan. Extend that out to friends and neighbors. As phone numbers, e-mail addresses and other contact information change, remember to review, update and practice!
- ✓ Pack a readily accessible emergency kit, also known as a go-bag, that includes two weeks' worth of food, water and critical supplies for each person and pet, including medication, flashlights, extra batteries and phone chargers. You probably already have many of the necessary items for an emergency kit in your home. Start small and work toward the two-week supply goal.

Continued on page 18H ►

# PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH



Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

*(Use the word bank as a guide.)*

## PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.

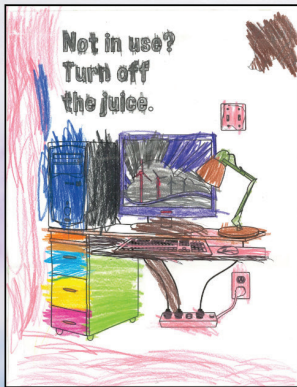


**WORD BANK:** phone numbers, emergency alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms

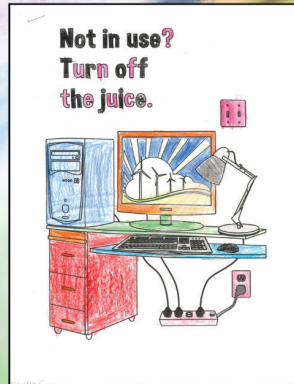


# 2024 JCE CO-OP COLORING CONTEST

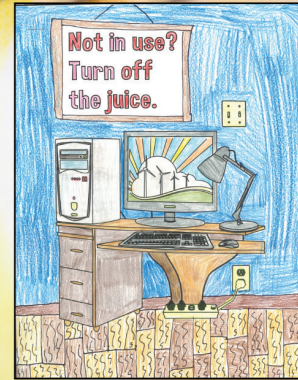
The JCE Co-op Coloring Contest allows our young members between the ages of 5 and 10 to show off their creative skills each year for a chance to win a full set of school supplies for the upcoming school year. Three winners were selected, one from each age category. This year's winners are:



Blake Ruddell-Age 5



Skylar Vesely-Age 7



Chaise Marie Schuchart-Age 10

JCE also donates five children's books to the winners' community libraries. We want to thank all our participants and wish all our students a great 2024-2025 school year.

## National Preparedness Month continued from page 18F

And, remember to reassess your unique needs frequently and update your kit.

- ✓ Make copies of important documents you would need to get your life back on track after an incident; scan or take photos of this information and store it in the cloud or on a flash drive in a waterproof container and keep it with your emergency kit. Documents can also be stored on your mobile phone.
- ✓ Check with loved ones and neighbors during severe weather, extreme heat or cold, utility outages or other incidents.
- ✓ Take time to think about how you would respond to an incident while in unfamiliar surroundings such as the county fair, at the mall or while you are on vacation.
- ✓ Volunteer! Join a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Older adults and people with disabilities, along with their caregivers, should consider individual circumstances and specific needs when planning for emergencies and create a support network of people who can help during an incident.

An incident can happen anywhere at any time, and once it occurs, it may take days or

even weeks for responders to reach everyone impacted. For every person that is prepared, that's one less person first responders need to assist, saving precious time and allowing them to prioritize life-threatening situations and vulnerable people. Doing your part to prepare yourself and your loved ones can truly help to save the lives of others.

Incidents don't plan ahead, but you can! Stay safe!



## Reader prize

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