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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



jcecoop.com



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Member Appreciation Days

Thank you for your continued support!



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Scholarships

Apply now!



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Food drive

Mark your calendar!

The value of your co-op membership

When you begin your day, you probably don't think about JCE Co-op. Maybe you start the morning with a hot shower and cup of coffee, focusing on the day ahead. You make sure your phone is charged, and you head out for a day at work, school or running errands. Throughout the day you stay connected to coworkers and colleagues, friends and family through emails, the web and texts. As you end your day, you flip a switch to turn on the lights, cook dinner and settle down to stream your favorite show or movie.

In the background, your co-op has been there making sure you have reliable energy and internet to energize your life and keep you connected. We work every day to be your trusted source of energy and information, making so many things possible by providing the services you depend on when and where you need them.

Providing reliable services is just one way we bring value to our members. In fact, our very existence based on the seven cooperative principles gives you value through the power of membership. Offering our members real value — and working together to improve the quality of life in our region — is how we set ourselves apart from other utility providers.

Our mission and primary purpose are to keep the lights on, the natural gas flowing, and the internet connected. We have an obligation to deliver safe, reliable and value-added services to our members. We strive to do much more.



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

Sometimes it's as basic as connecting with a real and local person when you call our office. It might be finding a copy of Illinois Country Living in your mailbox or our e-newsletter in your inbox every month, both ways we keep you informed about safety, ways that you can more effectively use our services, co-op business, programs and events.

Other times it is taking advantage of our energy efficiency services by getting advice from our energy advisor or having a home energy assessment or energy audit completed. Capital credits illustrate additional value and represent members' ownership in the co-op.

Members get more value out of their JCE Co-op membership when they vote for their board director, attend an annual meeting or simply participate in programs like autopay and paperless billing that help save time and money.

We also are passionate about seeing our membership and communities succeed and believe in investing in our communities. From collaborating with our neighbors and communities to provide sponsorships for local events and organizations to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our communities. We believe we have a responsibility to support our members, to enrich

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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

Aug. 28, 2024

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.

Safety Moment – Director Mattingley shared safety tips on recreational safety, such as the importance of a helmet while biking and wearing life jackets while boating. In addition, always let someone know your location and how you will be traveling.

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 July 23, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes/Summary, Discounted Estate Retirements, and the board expense summary.

Presentation – None.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review – None.

Governance Talk Video – A Governance Talk video was shared on “The Value of Diversity in the Boardroom.” When making decisions as a board, it’s important to have a variety of individuals with different skill sets, backgrounds and personalities. Deliberation and critical thinking in the boardroom lead to better decision making.

Board Policy Review – None.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO Mike Casper shared that as JCE Co-op continues to grow, its business units, additional working capital and an extension of our mortgage will be needed.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the July financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$40.2 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$31.7 million, which is (\$1,480,118) under the budget of \$33.1 million. Margins are approximately \$2.2 million. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – There was nothing to report outside of the written report submitted.

IT Technology Report – Dan Marcure, VP and Chief Technology Officer, provided an update on cybersecurity threats, sharing the recent cyber-attack that affected users on the Crowd Strike platform. Dan also shared ways to protect yourself from online hacking and phishing scams.

Member Services Update – Jennifer Meyer, VP of Member Services, provided an update on the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system upgrade. The first phase will be the use of automated handheld meter readers, which will assist in increasing efficiency when natural gas meters are read. In addition, Meyer noted that she will be providing the board a fiber message map for communication purposes.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – General Counsel Terry Kurt shared that Congressman Darrin LaHood met with JCE Co-op Staff and participated in a tour of co-op facilities.

Executive Assistant Update – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, informed the Annual Planning Committee that they will meet prior to the September Board Meeting at 8:30 a.m. In addition, Johnson provided conference details for the upcoming NRECA Regional 5&6 meeting.

Board Issues and Action Items

Dairyland (DPC) Power Load Forecast Resolution Approval – A motion was made by Director Tindell to approve the DPC Power Load Forecast, which was seconded by Director Hendren and carried unanimously.

CFC Certificate of Resolution and Incumbency – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the CFC Certificate of Resolution and Incumbency.

Select Voting Delegate/Alternate for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting – A motion was made, seconded and carried

unanimously to select Director Tindell as the NRECA voting delegate and Pat Smith as the alternate voting delegate for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting.

Select Voting Delegate for RESCO Annual Meeting – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to select President and CEO Mike Casper as the voting delegate for the RESCO Annual Meeting (held in conjunction with the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting).

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange for Region 5 Meeting of Subscribers – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to select Al Hendren as the voting delegate for the Federated Rural Electric Exchange Meeting of Subscribers (held in conjunction with the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting).

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:51 a.m.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and

carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:18 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 Meeting, noting that JCE Co-op was featured in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Magazine, an article highlighting our recent broadband efforts and value testimonials by the members of JCE Co-op.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley shared that DPC's Strategic Planning session was productive; in addition, Mattingley shared that Dairyland developed a transmission capacity map of their system.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed topics affecting the Natural Gas Industry, noting that tax exemptions should be fully

maintained as a critical tool for states, local governments and nonprofits to invest in the vital infrastructure that supports local community needs.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns shared highlights from the PPI Board Meeting and noted that a budget forum is scheduled for October.

Badger Group Annual Meeting – It was noted that President and CEO Casper, Directors Senn, Hendren, and Meyer attended the Badger Group Annual Meeting, and highlights were shared from the meeting.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

CEO's report continued from page 18A

schools and enhance our communities.

Since our very first days as an electric co-op, we've been committed to improving the quality of life for our members. That's the real value — and power — of co-op membership.



JCE CO-OP
OFFICES WILL BE
closed

NOVEMBER 11 FOR VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 28 & 29 FOR THANKSGIVING



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.

Celebrating our members

At the end of September, we had the pleasure of welcoming more than 900 of our valued members to a series of Member Appreciation Day events, including our newest addition on Oct. 7 in honor of Public Natural Gas Week. These events, held at our Savanna, Geneseo and Elizabeth offices, as well as Heritage Park in Erie, Ill., provided an excellent opportunity to show our appreciation for your continued support.



Throughout the events, members were treated to a delicious lunch of grilled pork chop sandwiches or hot dogs, enjoyed fun games for prizes, and took time to chat with co-op employees and board members. The additional October event brought an extra layer of celebration as we recognized the critical role public natural gas utilities play in our community.



We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended. These gatherings are our way of saying thank you for being such an integral part of our co-op family. It's your participation and engagement that help us grow and serve you better each year.



A special thank you goes out to our dedicated employees, whose hard work and enthusiasm ensured each event ran smoothly and provided our members with a warm and welcoming experience. Their commitment to excellence never goes unnoticed.



We look forward to continuing these kinds of events and can't wait to celebrate with you again in the future!

IEC Memorial Scholarship Program open for applications

The electric cooperatives of Illinois will award 17 scholarships, each worth \$2,500, to outstanding students from the electric cooperative family through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Here's a brief rundown of the scholarships available.

- Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are Illinois electric co-op members, giving these students a bright start on their educational journey.
- The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship is reserved for a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring the legacy of service within our cooperative family.
- Five scholarships are dedicated to students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college, who are also children of an electric cooperative member in Illinois.

- The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is designed for those ready to light up the world by pursuing a career in linework and are enrolled or plan to enroll at Lincoln Land Community College's lineworker program. This scholarship supports students of co-op members, relatives of employees or directors, and those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2024, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2025.

Claudette Quarnstrom

For more information, visit jcecoop.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors.

Watch for more information coming soon about the JCE Co-op Scholarship Program!

Electric budget billing accounts to recalculate

JCE Co-op members with budget billing on their 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 remains 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 regarding whether or not the budget bill amount changes. 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@jcecoop.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 jcecoop.com.



GIVE
Thanks

GIVE
Back

FOOD DRIVE 2024 **BEGINS:** Wednesday, Oct. 30
ENDS: Friday, Dec. 27

Donations of nonperishable items accepted at any JCE Co-op office.
Visit jcecoop.com/whats-poppin for more info.



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

 **JCE CO-OP**
Electric • Gas • Fiber

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Test for interruptible heat members set for Nov. 20

The Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts is set for Wednesday, Nov. 20. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure

members' familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure the backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. During the test, residential interruptible heat load classes will be controlled as shown in the chart.

Time	Event Status
6:55 p.m.	Event Start Time-Loads will begin to be interrupted.
7:00 p.m.	All Loads will be interrupted (2, 2W, 4B).
10:00 p.m.	Class 2, 2W and 4B will begin diversified restoral.
10:30 p.m.	Class 4B loads will be fully restored.
11:00 p.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads will be fully restored.



Cooperative Day of Service

Team members of JCE Co-op, alongside employees from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Zeilies Tree Service and members of the the Gramercy Park Foundation, recently participated in a Cooperative Day of Service at Gramercy Park in East Dubuque. With guidance from the Gramercy Park board, the group worked diligently to clear trees and brush. The event was one of six service projects coordinated by Dairyland on Oct. 2 during Co-op Month. This collaborative effort showcased the power of community partnerships.

