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## A diverse energy mix and reliability go hand in hand

It was good seeing some of you at our 85th Annual Meeting. If you were unable to participate, you can watch it on the annual meeting page on [jcecoop.com](http://jcecoop.com). Scan the QR code or go to [jcecoop.com/annual-meeting](http://jcecoop.com/annual-meeting).

We will also be holding additional member appreciation days this summer and fall throughout the communities that we serve. Watch for dates in future publications. Your feedback is important to us.

The main topic presented at this year's annual meeting was reliability and the value of a diverse energy mix. The electric grid is changing quickly. Much faster than at any point in history. Many electric generation resources are being added and retired. For example, intermittent renewable resources are being added (i.e., wind and solar) and thermal resources are being retired.

By 2028, nearly 15,000 MWs of dispatchable thermal resources will be retired in the state of Illinois. To put this in perspective, it is equivalent to 35 percent of the electric summer peak capacity required for the current Chicagoland area electric demand.

At the same time more is being asked of the electric grid and



**CEO'S REPORT**  
by Mike Casper

generation resources to meet additional electric demand for data centers to electric vehicles (EVs). For example, data centers to support cloud storage and artificial intelligence in the U.S. are projected to add an equivalent peak electric demand of up to two Chicagoland metro areas. There is more complex-

ity now than at any point, and the reliability of the electric grid is more precarious now because of it.

More dispatchable electric generation that can operate when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow — as well as transmission lines — are needed and need

to be built faster to foster change that is being pushed by federal and state policy.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) shared in a recent report that the top risk to electric grid reliability is state and federal energy policy.

In May, I testified in front of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Energy, Climate and Grid Security. I shared with the committee that Americans are losing the ability to



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## 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

jcecoop.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

# Resume of minutes

April 25, 2024

The regular board meeting of JCE Co-op (NFP) was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

**Safety Moment** – Director Holesinger shared the importance of knowing your surroundings, noting that you should take notice of things happening around or near you by staying alert, and if you see something potentially wrong to stay calm and confident and trust your instincts.

**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** – None.

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

**Governance Talk Video** – None.

**Board Policy Review** – None.

### CEO/Financial Operating Report

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Mike Casper shared with the board and senior staff the purpose of the upcoming strategic planning session and how the results provide direction to the cooperative.

**Financial Operating Report** – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the March financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$17.8 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$13.8 million, which is (\$727,806) under the budget of \$14.5 million. Margins are approximately \$1.3 million versus a budgeted amount of \$82,358 and amount to \$1.2 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 VP and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Buros provided an overview of each of the co-op's Position Statements that were reviewed over the past several months in preparation for the strategic planning session. In addition,

Buros noted that we received the fiber grant agreements from the state.

**Member Services Update** – VP of Member Services Jennifer Meyer provided an update on budgeted initiatives for 2024, which included enhancement of community safety programs (i.e., emergency responder training), our in-house training platform, lobby updates for the safety of our members and employees, an advanced metering infrastructure update, and improvements in our member engagement and communications.

**Technology Update** – VP and Chief Technology Officer Dan Marcure provided a map of the core fiber network supporting our member subscribers and noted future expansions and improvements that are ongoing.

**External Affairs/Legislative Update** – General Counsel Terry Kurt provided the board with an update on proposed bylaw changes.

**Into Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

**Out of Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

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

### Board Issues and Action Items

**Approve 2023 Margin Allocations** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 Margin Allocations.

**Consider Support for NWILED USDA Career Pathways Grant** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve support for NWILED USDA Career Pathways Grant.

**Rate Policy 808 Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP)** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 808 VoIP.

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# 2024 Scholarship recipients

JCE Co-op has awarded \$1,000 scholarships in 2024 to eight high school seniors who live in the cooperative's service area. Scholarships are based on the applicant's scholastic achievements, school and community involvement and personal essay. Two Lineworker Scholarships were also awarded. JCE presents scholarships annually as part of its commitment to community, one of the seven cooperative principles.



**Emma DeBaene**  
Geneseo

Geneseo High School

College: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Planned course of study: Biology major



**Karissa Andrews**  
Thomson

West Carroll High School

College: Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon

Planned course of study: Business Marketing/Management major



**Emily Dahlman**  
Savanna

West Carroll High School

College: Highland Community College, Freeport

Planned course of study: Associate of Science Degree then transferring to pursue physical therapy



**Emma Furlong**  
Galena

Galena High School

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Planned course of study: Majoring in Computer Science



**Ty Spahn**  
Hanover

River Ridge High School

College: Highland Community College, Freeport

Planned course of study: Conservation Officer



**Evelyn Walters**  
Elizabeth

River Ridge High School

College: St. Ambrose University, Davenport

Planned course of study: Nursing major

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**Bryar Haring**  
Savanna

Easton Valley High School  
College: Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Planned course of study: Business major



**Ariana Kalyan**  
Fulton

Fulton High School  
College: University of Iowa  
Planned course of study: Pre-Med

## LINeworker SCHOLARSHIPS



**Aaron Morrison**  
East Dubuque

East Dubuque High School  
College: Southwest Technical College, Fennimore, Wis.



**Lucas Holland**  
Elizabeth

River Ridge High School  
College: Southwest Technical College Fennimore, Wis.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source:  
[homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)





**POWER UP... Saturday, August 10**

**And get to know GEOTHERMAL!**

**Geothermal Power Hour with John Scott**  
**10:00 a.m. to noon**

*Sign up and join us!*

Galena Territory Owners Clubhouse  
 2000 Territory Dr.  
 Galena, IL 61036

**POWER-UP**  
NW Illinois

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

choose the energy source that best fits their needs and emphasized the importance of the direct use of natural gas as part of America's energy mix. The path to our country's affordable, reliable and sustainable energy future requires a diverse energy mix that includes the continued utilization of our natural gas infrastructure.

I also expressed to the committee that I am equally concerned about how an already strapped electric grid will reliably adapt. Direct use of natural gas provides fuel diversity, helping to meet energy demand efficiently, affordably and reliably.

Reliable energy sources are vital to America's economy and national security.

**Minutes continued from page 18B**

**Select Attendees for BLC Course 984/The Road to Resiliency: A Director's Responsibility –** Attendees were selected to attend BLC Course 984/The Road to Resiliency.

**Reports/Updates**

**Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report –** No AIEC Board Meeting was scheduled in April.

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) –** Director Mattingley shared highlights from the DPC Board meeting.

**American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report –** Director Carroll discussed topics affecting the natural gas industry, specifically the Department of Energy's minimum appliance efficiency standard, which could impact consumer choice.

**Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report –** Director Kuhns shared a summary from the Prairie State Generating Campus production numbers, noting that it was one of their most productive months.

**AIEC Lobby Day Roundtable Discussion –** Directors and staff had the opportunity to meet with local representatives and legislators during the AIEC Lobby Day, which was held at the Illinois State Capitol. This opportunity provided a platform to meet with our elected leaders and engage in conversations and make them aware of important topics affecting the utility industry.

**Other Business –** None.

**Adjournment –** Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

## Attention members who pay by mail

JCE Co-op's lockbox processing vendor has changed its processing location for all mail-in payments. Simply remove the stub as the bottom of your bill statement and include it with your payment.

If you use a bank bill pay to pay your bill you will need to change your bank bill-pay vendor profile to the new address to avoid any issues of a check going to the correct place in a timely manner. The new address is P.O. Box 70878, Charlotte, NC 28272-0878.

This new site is closer to the U.S. Postal Service and has eight pickups daily, which will result in a more streamlined bill payment process.

### What is lockbox?

Lockbox banking is a service that banks offer to help companies, like JCE Co-op, accept check payments from members. Benefits of lockbox banking include easier reconciliation, reduced Accounts Receivable workload and

ensures business continuity in the face of a disruptive event.

### How does lockbox work?

Your payment is mailed to a dedicated post office box associated with JCE Co-op. All payments received are processed daily, a data file is generated and transferred to JCE Co-op. We then post that file the same day. This is similar to car, mortgage and other credit lending payments.

### Why does JCE Co-op use lockbox services, instead of processing in house?

According to Jennifer Meyer, vice president of member services, the decision to use lockbox services was born out of a process analysis conducted during Covid-19. Meyer noted "the co-op is proud that we were able to provide uninterrupted member services during the Covid-19 pandemic, we don't know what the future will hold. In an analysis of task performed by the Member

Care group, processing of mail-in payments was one item identified as being in need of improvement in the face of a pandemic or other business disruptive event, like fire or severe damage from a weather event, to ensure business continuity." JCE Co-op entered an agreement with our billing software provider, who also performs bill payment processing.

"Through this trusted partnership, we are certain this function of account management will be handled with the utmost professionalism and security, and uninterrupted in the face of future crises. This also allows Member Services to focus on more value-added functions that are important to you and the services we provide," stated Meyer.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Member Services by calling 800-858-5522.



**Coloring Contest**

Looking for a fun summer project for your kids this summer?  
**Deadline July 26th**

Winners will receive a set of school supplies for the fall school year and other fun prizes. In addition, to the child's prize, we donate five energy related children's books to the child's community library.

Coloring sheets, along with the entry form and rules, can be found at [jcecoop.com/member-involvement](http://jcecoop.com/member-involvement). Only one entry per child is allowed, and each entry will be placed into one of the three age groups 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.

Artwork will be judged based on creativity, originality and use of color. All artwork will not be returned except upon request and will be displayed in our Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo offices.

If you have any questions please email Sara at [sbielema@jcecoop.com](mailto:sbielema@jcecoop.com)



**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.



## JCE Co-op recognized for excellence in operating natural gas system

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) presented JCE Co-op with the APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) for excellence in operating its natural gas utility.

Out of approximately 750 APGA members, JCE Co-op was selected for SOAR level silver by its peers on the APGA Operations and Safety Committee.

The selection was based on demonstrated excellence in four areas:

- ★ **System integrity** – The system is performing safely, efficiently and effectively.
- ★ **System improvement** – The system is well maintained and up to date through self-improvement programs.
- ★ **Employee safety** – exhibited in several ways including adoption of a safety program for education involvement and accountability for all employees and tracking safety performance.

- ★ **Workforce development** – creative recruitment, training, education and development practices to increase employee loyalty, motivation, safety and productivity.

APGA President and CEO Dave Schryver remarked, “JCE Co-op was highly rated in all four areas that are required of SOAR, noted Dave Schryver, APGA president. “JCE Co-op consistently demonstrates a commitment to providing natural gas safely and efficiently to all those in their community and as such, serves as a model for all other natural gas utilities in the country.”

JCE Co-op was one of 25 SOAR recipients recognized in 2024, joining the 51 previous SOAR award recipients. APGA will recognize the co-op at its Annual Conference in Traverse City, Mich., in July.

# BLOOD DRIVE

[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)

## JCE Co-op

Thursday, August 8

2:00pm – 6:00pm

Meeting Room (793 U.S. Route 20 West)

To schedule, scan QR code, call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401 or visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org). Appointments preferred.



*"Honestly, without donors there is a chance that Hudson wouldn't be alive today because those transfusions are what saved his life."*

—Jessica, Hudson's mom



Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 6/13/24

Group Sponsor Code: 3642



**ImpactLife**

50 Years of Saving Lives