


# HI-LINES

A newsletter for members of JCE Co-op

JUNE 2025

 Elizabeth, IL

 800-858-5522

 [jcecoop.com](http://jcecoop.com)



## CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

## Finding stability in uncertain times

Electricity—one of our three core divisions—is a crucial part of our daily lives and smart electricity use helps keep rates stable.

As a cooperative, we are owned by you, the members we serve. Our goal is to help you save energy and reduce your overall cost. We even have our own “Inspector Watts” who can perform a free energy assessment of your home or business or a full audit for a minimal reimbursable price. Our energy efficiency incentives encourage you to make smart purchases to help you save energy and money.

We are part of a community that shares resources and stays connected through American's electric grid. Providing electricity to all members exactly when it's needed is part of a larger, complex effort between JCE Co-op, our wholesale power providers (generation and transmission co-ops, Dairyland Power Cooperative and Prairie Power, Inc.), and the regional grid operator—the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

We work with our generation partners, Dairyland and PPI and their other members, to own and operate shared generation facilities to provide reliable power.

MISO oversees the reliable generation and delivery of electricity for 45 million people in 15 states and Manitoba, Canada.

The price of electricity purchased from MISO changes every five minutes, based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need—or demand—rises during the day, the price of electricity increases because more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, wind turbines, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses and other

buildings or devices. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do electricity prices.

By voluntarily shifting non-essential electricity use to times of lower demand and prices, you are helping reduce the overall price of power that is directly passed on to you. Using less electricity at high prices helps keep rates stable for all members. The more members who participate, the more impactful these savings become.

For example, thanks to the combined participation of JCE Co-op members with members from Dairyland's other 23 electric cooperatives, the amount of electricity Dairyland would have to purchase during times of peak demand has been reduced by the equivalent of a small power plant.

This does not mean JCE Co-op will never need to raise rates, but shifting electricity use to off-peak or lower demand times can reduce how often these increases might have to occur.

Year-round, [jcecoop.com](http://jcecoop.com), our monthly newsletter, and the Illinois Country Living magazine share ways members can save energy. By better understanding how to shift non-essential electricity use away from times of high demand, we can maximize the available generation resources on the grid and keep JCE Co-op's rates more stable. Please reach out to our team to learn more.

To assist you further in reducing energy usage during times of higher priced power, JCE Co-op is in the process of working with our cooperative wholesale power providers in upgrading the platforms used to initiate additional load management opportunities that will provide you, our members, additional opportunities to reduce your electricity bill.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE TOPIC— SENIOR PLANET

Intro to Managing Your Privacy

#### JUNE 3

Senior Planet–Savanna  
Museum and Cultural Center  
10:00–11:00 a.m.

#### JUNE 5

Senior Planet–Mount Carroll  
District Library 1:00–2:00 p.m.

#### JUNE 10

Senior Planet–Schmaling  
Memorial Public Library Fulton  
11:00 a.m.–Noon

#### JUNE 12

Senior Planet–Apple Canyon  
Lake Clubhouse 1:00–2:00 p.m.

#### JUNE 17

Senior Planet–Morrison Odell  
Public Library 11:00 a.m.–Noon

#### JUNE 19

Senior Planet–Menominee  
Township Building  
Time to be determined

#### JUNE 24

Senior Planet–JCE Co-op  
Elizabeth West Campus  
10:00–11:00 a.m.

#### JUNE 26

Senior Planet–Geneseo Public  
Library 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

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

## Great news for the Empowering Rural America grant!



Good news from one of our cooperative power providers, Dairyland Power, is that it was recently affirmed by the Trump Administration that the \$595 million Empowering Rural America (New ERA) grant Dairyland received in 2024 will proceed. Part of this grant will be directed toward upgrading transmission lines so they can better utilize available power generation resources. The award will also benefit Dairyland's cooperative members—including JCE Co-op—by providing downward rate pressure, increasing reliability and resilience, creating job opportunities, supporting economic development and generating new sources of tax revenue for local communities.

## Tips for reducing or shifting energy use from times of higher demand



- In the summer set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal).
- Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer.
- Running a ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Wash dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let the dishes air dry.

## SmartHub is coming soon!

JCE Co-op is migrating to new billing and accounting software as part of our ongoing efforts to improve services and operational efficiencies. The new system has benefits for members and the cooperative.

Your life is busy and managing your account can feel complicated, with our new SmartHub tool it won't be. Save time and money by managing your account anytime from anywhere. Here are some of the ways SmartHub will put you in control of your account.

### How can SmartHub help you control your account?

Our SmartHub mobile app and web portal will keep you informed and will show you where to save time and money on your bills.



#### Billing & Payments

No more waiting for your bill to arrive in the mail, access your bill at anytime from anywhere. Save time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.



#### Alerts & Notifications

Stay informed on important account events via email or text messages. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.



#### Paperless Billing

What if you could save some time and a tree at the same time? Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to instantly access your bill.



#### Usage Monitoring

Worrying about usage or surprising bill amounts can be stressful. With access to this information, you can be in control and make decisions that can help reduce your bill.

SmartHub gives you complete control over your account by giving you the tools that deliver the right information at the right time so you can make the right decisions about your account.





## Actions & important dates you'll need to know!

### August 2025: Billing cycles to change

The first phase requires a change to current billing cycles beginning in August. For electric and natural gas members, we are dividing our service territory into three cycles. Some accounts may not see a change and will remain the same. This will not affect fiber and phone services, which will remain on the same cycle they are on currently.

#### What does this mean for you?



##### New billing cycles

New billing cycles begin in August—you will have new billing and due dates.



##### Review the changes

Please take a moment to review the new billing cycle for your area and note changes to your payment schedule.



##### Update payment methods

If you use automatic payments, ensure that your payment method is updated to reflect the new due date, beginning in August.

The areas included in the new cycles are show in the table below:

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
<b>Billing Date</b>	7th of the month	14th of the month	24th of the month
<b>Due Date</b>	28th of the month	5th of the month	15th of the month
<b>Territory</b>	Apple River, Hanover, Stockton, Albany, Chadwick, Erie, Fenton, Mount Carroll, Lanark, Morrison, Geneseo, Atkinson, Prophetstown, Annawan, Colona	Fulton Savanna Thomson	East Dubuque Elizabeth Galena Scales Mound

Brian M Yugar



### November 3: SmartHub is Live!

On Nov. 3, we will be launching our new SmartHub mobile app and web portal. This new system has features to help you save time and money. Our team has been working hard to get this system ready for you. It's going to make managing your account easier than ever.

*Watch for additional information and key dates in our next newsletter.*



**Have questions? Contact us if you have any questions or concerns, our member care team is here to help and can be reached at 800-858-5522.**



# 2025

## JCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



*JCE Co-op has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to eight high school seniors in 2025. Scholarships are based on the students' achievements, community involvement and personal essays. The co-op's scholarship program is part of our commitment to community, one of the seven cooperative principles.*



**Lillian Ebersole**  
*Chadwick*

Chadwick-Milledgeville  
High School

College/Planned course  
of study: Sauk Valley  
Community College,  
majoring in business



**Gavin Loeffelholz**  
*East Dubuque*

East Dubuque High  
School

College/Planned course of  
study: University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign,  
pursue degree in  
accounting, finance or  
business law.



**Aidan Jepson**  
*Erie*

Erie High School

College/Planned course  
of study: Eastern Iowa  
Community College, with  
goal of becoming an  
electrician



**Evan Piercy**  
*Fulton*

Fulton High School

College/Planned course of study: University of Iowa, majoring in Pharmacy



**Brady Turner**  
*Galena*

Galena High School

College/Planned course of study: University of Wisconsin-Platteville, mechanical engineering



**Dylan Gehl**  
*Geneseo*

Geneseo High School

College/Planned course of study: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Engineering Physics



**Dalton Duggan**  
*Savanna*

West Carroll High School

College/Planned course of study: Sauk Valley Community College, industrial maintenance electrician program



**Derrick Distler**  
*Scales Mound*

Scales Mound High School

College/Planned course of study: apprenticeship and college courses, with goal of becoming an electrician



*Congratulations to  
all our students!*





# STREAMNOW

is your guide  
to streaming TV

*If you're new to streaming, the first thing to do is visit our StreamNow website and check out StreamNow's side-by-side comparison chart. It shows at a glance which of these streaming services carry which channels—and their monthly prices—so you can take the right route for you!*

## Get streaming in 4 easy steps

1

### Choose your speed!

Selecting the optimal bandwidth for your household is the first step to streaming. Call JCE Co-op Fiber at 800-858-5522 for guidance on the right speed for you.

2

### Review your options

Some paid-subscription services offer live TV viewing (with or without on-demand content) and can replace traditional TV plans, while others feature only on-demand movies and series.

Live TV	On-Demand	Free
YouTube TV, DIRECTV STREAM, Sling TV, Hulu + Live TV, Philo, Paramount+, Fubo, Frndly TV, Peacock	Netflix, Apple TV+, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, Discovery+, Max	Pluto, XUMO, ROKU Channel, Redbox, Tubi, Crackle, Peacock, Haystack News

3

### Find, purchase and connect!

If you have a smart TV, it should be ready to stream right out of the box. No smart TV? No problem! You'll just need to purchase and set up a streaming device like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV Stick, which will enable streaming on older televisions. You can also stream on your smartphone, tablet and computer in addition to your TV.

4

### Sign up!

Start a streaming service or two ... or three. Most require only a 30-day commitment and some offer a free trial period. This makes it easy to try out different services and cancel the services you don't find yourself using or enjoying.

## Why choose streaming?

There are good reasons why about 90% of homes in the U.S. are now subscribing to at least one streaming service:



### Monthly Savings

Many people are replacing costly traditional TV plans with much more affordable streaming services, some of which have free trial periods.



### Convenience

Nobody wants to be tied to a TV schedule. Streaming lets you watch what you want, when you want.



### Personalization

Streaming services make recommendations on what series or movie to watch next based on your viewing profiles.

For more information, visit [gostreamnow.com/jcecoop](http://gostreamnow.com/jcecoop).



**JCE CO-OP**  
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## 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

**March 25, 2025**

### Board Meeting Minutes Summary

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

**Safety Moment** – Director Smith shared safety tips for outdoor grilling, including having the appropriate fire extinguisher nearby, and inspection of the grill fuel system for leaks and breaks.

**Approval of Agenda** – Director Kuhns made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Director Hendren, and carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda** – Director Lundy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the February Minutes/Summary, board expense summary, AIEC Report, discounted estate retirements and written reports from staff and the CEO, which was seconded by Director Smith and carried unanimously.

### Presentations

Nate Kulla, Director, FORVIS (Accounting), presented results from the 2024 Audit.

Keith Kaderly, Inside Information, presented results from the Fall 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey.

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

### CEO/Financial Operating Report

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Mike Casper yielded his time to speak later in the meeting.

**Financial Operating Report** – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, noted that February Revenue is approximately \$13.2 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$10.4 million, which is \$109,857 under the budget of \$10.5 million, due to multiple factors. Margins are approximately \$861,304 and are \$716,503 greater than budget of \$144,801, primarily due to revenue over budget by \$445,378. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

### Board Issues and Action Items

#### Approve 2024 Audit Report and

### Consolidated Financial Statements –

The 2024 Audit Report was presented with a clean, unmodified opinion. No issues with accounting policies, management judgement, or estimates were found. Director Smith made a motion to approve the summary, which was seconded by Director Kuhns, and the motion carried unanimously. The Independent Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements are located on JCE Co-op's website under the My Co-op| Other| Financials tab.

### Move the July 28th JCE Board Meeting to July 29th

– A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a date change for the July board meeting.

### Executive Session

**Into Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:14 AM.

**Out of Executive Session** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:15 AM.

### Action Resulting from Executive Session

– A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the Executive Committee's recommendation to reduce and/or postpone the retirement of capital credits in 2025.

### Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

**Operations Update** – Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Buros provided an operations update on fiber growth. New subscribers are projected to be on target at the end of Q1 2025.

**IT Technology Report** – Dan Marcure, V.P. and Chief Technology Officer, shared plans to improve reliability related to a recent fiber network outage. As we complete additional fiber rings within the network, reliability will improve.

## Resume of minutes *(Continued)*

**Member Services Update** – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Cooperative Services, shared updates on technology initiatives. JCE will be installing an additional 3,300 meters in the coming months, the new SmartHub member-facing platform will go live on November 3rd. SmartHub is an online platform or mobile app used by utility companies to allow customers to manage their accounts more efficiently.

**External Affairs/Legislative Update** – General Counsel Terry Kurt provided an update on the status of HB 1737, legislation to expedite the deployment of broadband in Illinois.

**Executive Assistant Update** – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, provided guidance to the directors on completing necessary forms.

### Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) – Director Senn provided an update on state legislative initiatives, the 2026 AIEC Annual Meeting location, and the hiring of a new attorney to fill a vacant position.

**Dairyland Power Report** – Director Mattingley reported that the Dairyland Financial Forecast will be presented in May and additional energy hedging mechanisms are being considered to mitigate potential energy price volatility in the future.

**Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report** – Director Kuhns shared highlights and generation statistics from the most recent Prairie Power Board Meeting.

**NRECA Power Exchange Meeting** – Director Smith attended the NRECA Power Exchange Meeting, highlighting sessions she attended, including a broadband session where JCE's Jesse Shekleton, director and general manager of broadband, presented. She also commented on the Resolutions voting process.

**Other Business** – None.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.



## 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.



## Power up your summer with Inspector Watts & Scout!

Get ready for a summer full of fun, learning, and energy-packed adventures! Inspector Watts and his trusty sidekick, Scout the dog, are launching a series of exciting activities for kids — from hands-on experiments and puzzles to challenges and educational games, all designed to spark curiosity and creativity.

Starting this summer, follow along on our social media pages for bi-weekly updates, downloadable activity pages, and links to new adventures. Each activity is designed to light up young minds and keep kids engaged all season long.



**Stay plugged in—follow us on facebook and join Watts & Scout on a mission to make this summer shockingly fun!**



## Hit us with your BEST shot!

JCE Co-op members are invited to submit their best photos for our 2025 photo contest.

The subject of the photo can be landscapes, powerline equipment or anything that depicts life in northwest Illinois. Entries must be submitted by June 30.

Entrants must be JCE Co-op members; spouses and children of members may submit photos also. All photos must be the work of the entrant and be taken within the JCE Co-op service area.

We will choose 12 photos to appear on the pages of our 2026 photo calendar pages. Several other photos may be selected as honorable mention. Some of these may also be used on our website or ads.

For complete rules and entry information, please visit [jcecoop.com/member-involvement](http://jcecoop.com/member-involvement). We do ask that members limit their entries to five each.

