

HI-LINES

A newsletter for members of JCE Co-op

JUNE 2026

Elizabeth, IL

800-858-5522

jcecoop.com



CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

Preparing for storm season

Severe weather is part of life in northwest Illinois. High winds, lightning, heavy rain, flooding, ice and tornadoes can move quickly and leave damage behind in minutes. The recent EF2 tornado in Lena was a difficult reminder of how quickly severe weather can affect our region and why preparation matters.

While we cannot prevent every outage or weather-related issue, we can prepare and preparation makes a difference.

At JCE Co-op, storm readiness starts long before a warning is issued. Our teams monitor conditions, prepare trucks and materials, review response plans and coordinate crews, so we can respond safely. System maintenance, tree trimming, inspections, employee training and communication planning help keep our electric, fiber broadband and natural gas systems ready.

Members also play an important role. Before storm season, make sure your phone number and email address are current in SmartHub. Accurate contact information helps us communicate outage updates and service information more effectively.

During an electric outage, one of the best resources is the outage map on our website at outagemap.jocarroll.com. The map is kept current as information is received and updated, allowing members to see known outages without calling. If your power is out, report it by calling 1-800-858-5522. This is the best and only recommended way to report an outage. Facebook messages, comments, and emails are not monitored around the clock and are not considered official outage reporting methods. Reporting outages through these channels may delay

response and restoration efforts. Please also report the correct type of issue. If your electricity is out, report an electric outage. If your power is on but your internet is not working, report a fiber service issue. Reporting fiber trouble as an electric outage will not speed up service and may slow the response by routing it through the wrong process.

In some cases, crews may determine the problem is on the member's side of the service, such as member-owned wiring, breakers, equipment generator connections. When that happens, a service fee may apply. That fee helps cover the cost of sending trained personnel and equipment to diagnose a problem outside of JCE Co-op's responsibility, rather than passing that cost to all members.

Most importantly, keep safety first. Stay away from downed power lines and assume every line is energized. Do not touch or move downed fiber lines, as they may be near electric equipment. If you use a generator, keep it outdoors and away from windows, doors and vents and never plug it directly into a home outlet unless it is connected through a properly installed transfer switch.

Storms and flooding can also create natural gas concerns. If you smell gas, leave immediately and call 800-858-5522 or 911 from a safe location. If floodwater reaches natural gas appliances or equipment, have them inspected by a qualified professional before using them again.

We cannot control the weather, but we can control how we prepare, respond and look out for one another. That is what being part of a local cooperative is all about.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE TOPIC—SENIOR PLANET

Everyday uses of A.I.

AI is everywhere—now's your chance to understand the hype. Join this class to explore how AI powers everyday tools like voice assistants, customer service, healthcare and more. Discover real-world uses across industries and learn simple & fun ways you can start using AI in your own life.

JUNE 4

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

JUNE 23

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

HAVE A GROUP OF 5 OR MORE? REQUEST A SENIOR PLANET CLASS.

Want to learn about new tech topics? Call Taylor Smith at 815-591-0091 to set up additional classes.


JCE CO-OP
Electric • Gas • Fiber

MEET THE GRID POWER PLAYERS

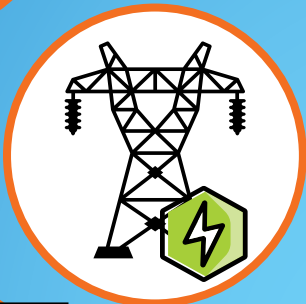
Electricity is available with the flip of a switch, but it travels great distances and is coordinated among multiple entities before it reaches your home or business. Take a look at the grid power players that ensure you receive reliable electricity.



1

Generation owners & operators

Power plants can be owned and operated by electric utilities, government entities or other private companies. Power plants produce electricity by converting energy from various sources—like natural gas, coal, nuclear or renewables—into electricity.



2

Transmission system owners & operators

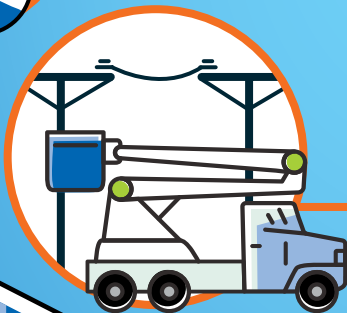
The transmission grid moves large amounts of electricity over long distances using high-voltage transmission lines attached to large towers. Like power plants, these lines can be owned by a variety of public and private companies.



3

Organized wholesale markets

In many parts of the country, Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) & Independent System Operators (ISOs) coordinate the flow of electricity across regions by balancing supply and demand in real time and managing the dispatch of electric generation and transmission across large areas with the participation of generation and transmission owners.



4

Electric utilities (That's us!)

Electric distribution utilities take electricity from the transmission system and deliver it to homes and businesses through lower-voltage distribution lines. They also maintain local power lines, poles and other essential equipment.



5

End users (That's you!)

End users consist of the homes, businesses and industries that consume electricity. Their demand drives how much electricity is generated and how the grid is managed in real time.

Other Key Players:

NERC: The regulatory authority that develops and enforces mandatory, reliability standards for the North American bulk electric grid. (Standards are developed through a stakeholder process.)

FERC: Independent federal agency that oversees interstate transmission and wholesale electricity sales, ensuring fair access to the grid.



Why federal reform matters to your co-op

Electric cooperatives nationwide, including JCE Co-op, are urging federal lawmakers to modernize permitting and improve FEMA disaster recovery—two issues that directly affects reliability and affordability in rural communities.

As member-owned, not-for-profit utilities, co-ops build and maintain critical infrastructure, but outdated federal permitting processes can delay projects for years, driving up costs and slowing system improvements.

After severe weather, co-ops rely on FEMA assistance, but delays, high borrowing costs and funding uncertainties can strain finances. Because co-ops operate at cost, these challenges ultimately impact the members they serve.

By advocating for practical reforms, co-ops aim to speed up projects, strengthen disaster recovery and maintain reliable, affordable power for rural America.

Christina Kilburg



Hit us with your BEST shot!

Don't forget to submit your best shot by June 30 for a chance to be featured in our 2027 calendar. Open to JCE Co-op members (and their spouses & children). Photos must be your own and taken within our service area. Winners will be featured in the calendar, with additional photos possibly used online or in ads.

Get full details and enter at jcecoop.com/member-involvement.



Watt a bright idea—let's color!

Calling all co-op kids!

2026 Color Contest

Get creative with Scout and Inspector Watts! Learn more at jcecoop.com/member-involvement

2026

JCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JCE Co-op awarded \$1,000 scholarships to nine seniors in 2026—recognized for achievement, service and thoughtful essays. It's one way we live our commitment to community and invest in what's next.



Belle Curley
Fulton

Fulton High School

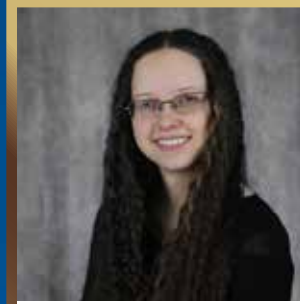
College/Planned course of study: Coe College, majoring in Education



Anna Grzemeski
West Carroll

Home schooled

College/Planned course of study: University of Nebraska, majoring in EMT training and transitioning to nursing school.



Abigail Grzemeski
West Carroll

West Carroll High School

College/Planned course of study: Sauk Valley Community College, majoring in Business & Accounting



**Sarah Winter
Elizabeth**

River Ridge High School

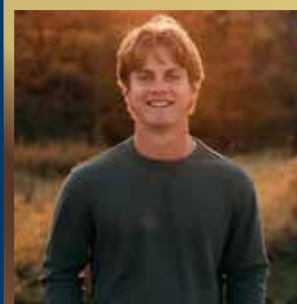
College/Planned course of study: Augustana College, majoring in Animal Science in the Pre-Vet Track & playing collegiate golf



**Catia Wilson
West Carroll**

West Carroll High School

College/Planned course of study: Western Illinois University, Zoology



**Sam Rife
Elizabeth**

River Ridge High School

College/Planned course of study: Marquette University, majoring in Engineering & joining ROTC to become a military officer



**Sydney Schoenhard
East Dubuque**

East Dubuque High School

College/Planned course of study: University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, majoring in English Literature & Language Arts Education



**Jayme Frank
Galena**

Galena High School

College/Planned course of study: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Elementary Education



**Audri Wilcox
West Carroll**

West Carroll High School

College/Planned course of study: Highland Community College for Supply Chain Management & playing collegiate volleyball

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS!

LIGHTNING SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Did you know June 21-27 is **National Lightning Safety Awareness Week**?

Lightning can happen fast and be very dangerous but staying safe is easy when you know what to do! Read the following safety tips, help Inspector Watts & Scout find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.



- When thunder roars, go **indoors**! If you can hear thunder, **lightning** is close enough to be dangerous.
- Stay away from all **water** sources. Don't swim, use hoses or play near standing water when a **storm** is present.
- Avoid tall things and open spaces. Stay away from **tall trees**, poles and open fields where lightning tends to **strike**.
- Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of **thunder**. Even if the rain stops, **wait** at least 30 minutes before going back outside.

H	M	E	K	H	I	S	O	D	G	W	R	D	A	Q
I	L	Y	T	U	O	K	Y	K	P	A	E	G	Z	T
A	E	I	I	N	D	O	O	R	S	T	D	B	J	A
T	A	K	G	P	H	O	P	J	F	E	N	K	G	L
W	D	J	I	H	P	Q	J	M	G	R	U	Z	R	P
M	S	E	E	R	T	L	L	A	T	S	H	W	S	R
N	D	O	T	Z	T	N	G	L	L	T	T	J	V	I
Q	D	O	R	Z	H	S	I	P	Y	T	L	J	W	V
E	G	J	R	T	Y	J	D	N	U	P	V	T	T	Q
V	I	A	Y	X	C	U	Y	N	G	W	Z	B	M	X
I	I	A	T	V	D	O	M	W	P	A	L	S	T	V
D	O	U	J	S	B	W	A	R	X	C	T	W	O	H
E	Y	E	S	J	P	P	P	R	B	O	F	M	Q	H
V	O	K	R	M	C	G	X	O	R	D	A	O	D	V
T	G	B	X	N	B	R	K	M	X	B	I	F	K	U

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Meyer

Vice Chairman
District 1

Dan Tindell

Secretary
District 2

Joseph W. Mattingley

District 3

Allen Hendren

District 4

Thomas Lundy

District 5

David Senn

Chairman
District 6

Larry Carroll

District 7

Ted James

District 8

Robert Kuhns

Treasurer
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, 2026

Board Meeting Minutes Summary

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Safety Moment – Ted James shared a safety moment on yard safety clean up, focused on the importance of yard safety and seasonal clean-up. Examples included removing debris such as branches, leaves and clutter to prevent trips and falls; properly storing tools and equipment when not in use; checking for and safely disposing of sharp objects or hazardous materials; maintaining clear walkways and drive areas; and being mindful of overhead hazards such as low-hanging branches. He also emphasized the use of proper personal protective equipment, such as gloves, safety glasses and ear protection when performing yard work.

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 to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the March 25th Minutes/Summary, Board Expense Summary, Discounted Estate Summary and written reports from staff and the CEO.

Governance Talk Video – None.

Presentation – None.

CEO|CFO Report

President & CEO Report – President and CEO Mike Casper discussed key takeaways from the NRECA Power Exchange Meeting, emphasizing the value of attending in person. He noted that the meeting provided important insights and reaffirmed the cooperatives commitment to continued participation. Casper highlighted the benefits of face-to-face interactions, explaining that connecting in person fosters stronger relationships, encourages the exchange of ideas and has a meaningful impact on

informed decision-making for the future of the cooperative.

Financial Operating Report – Emily Doland, Chief Financial Officer, noted that February Revenue is approximately \$14 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are \$10,823,045 million, which is \$81,794 under the budget. Margins are approximately \$922,905. 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 Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the ITC 69kV line upgrade in Mt. Carroll. Buros also discussed potential grant opportunities to improve our natural gas pipeline system.

Cooperative Services Update – Jennifer Meyer, Vice President of Cooperative Services, reviewed the strategic objectives through 2027, with a focus on growth, rate stabilization and enhancing the overall value of the cooperative. Meyer also provided an overview of key initiatives planned for 2026.

Human Resources and Marketing Update – Merri Sevey, Executive Vice President Human Resources, introduced a proposed Insight Committee to replace the Member Advisory Council (MAC). Member-consumers can apply to participate in the focus group and appointments would be for two-year terms. Sevey also shared a sales and marketing plan aimed at meeting JCE Co-op's 2026 fiber subscriber goal.

IT Technology Report – Dan Marcure, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, reported that we are continuing to monitor our VPN (Virtual Private Network) software, which provides a

Resume of minutes *(Continued)*

secure, encrypted connection that protects company data and allows employees to safely access systems remotely. Marcure also noted that we are upgrading our security network and continuing to monitor the situation overseas.

External Affairs| Legislative Update - Terry Kurt, General Counsel, provided an update on state bills being proposed that relate to the utility industry.

Amy Johnston| Executive Assistant Update – Amy Johnston, Executive Assistant, provided an update on the upcoming Lunch & Learn and Legislative and Lobby Day meetings.

Board Issues and Action Items

Deferred Revenue Resolution – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Deferred Revenue Resolution, deferring revenue from 2025 to 2026.

Corporate Resolution for line of credit with UMB Bank on behalf of the Corporation – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Corporate Resolution for line of credit with UMB Bank on behalf of the Corporation.

Authorizing Borrowing from UMB Bank and Designating Authorized Officer – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to designate Emily Doland as an authorized officer and grant her authority to borrow from UMB Bank on behalf of the organization.

Reports| Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Director Mattingley provided an overview of the recent AIEC strategic planning session. Mattingley noted that the AIEC has also been very proactive with state legislative issues that affect cooperatives.

APGA Report – Director Carroll reported on APGA's recent meetings and an update on the Energy Star program, in addition Carroll noted that APGA actively

monitors cybersecurity risks to ensure the reliability and the safety of the natural gas systems that they represent.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC Report) – Director James reported on winter storm Fern as well as provided highlights from the Dairyland Report.

Prairie Power (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided insights from PPI's March committee and board meetings, as well as generation data from PPI's units.

Roundtable Discussion – Directors who participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Power Exchange meetings provided highlights.

Executive Session

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:18 AM.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:45 AM.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:46 PM.



Reader prize!

Each month, a JCE Co-op member is named for a chance to win a \$25 readership prize. If your name appears in this issue (and not in an article), contact JCE Co-op.



Join our NEW Insight Committee!

JCE Co-op is launching a new Insight Committee to gather member feedback in a more flexible way—through surveys, occasional Zoom meetings and one annual board meeting. We're looking for members to share ideas, help shape improvements and guide the co-op's future. Join us and make your voice heard.

Together, we can build an even stronger co-op.

Interested in joining the Insight Committee?
Contact Taylor Smith at tsmith@jcecoop.com to learn more and sign up.