

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



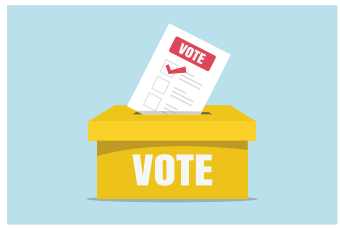
Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



18C

Director elections

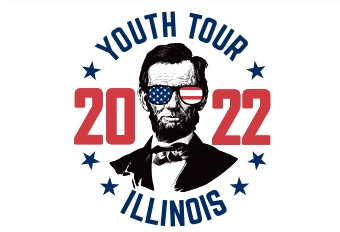
No contested races for JCE board



18D-E

Annual meeting

Plan to attend the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members



18G

Youth Tour

Two students selected to represent JCE in D.C.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy 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 Jo-Carroll Energy.

Power of co-op membership

If you haven't already, you will be receiving the Jo-Carroll Energy 2022 Annual Report. An emphasis has been placed on the power of co-op membership.

Providing value-added services that empower the businesses, communities, and member-consumers that we serve, allowing you to be more successful helps define the power of co-op membership.

Running a business or maintaining a happy household is not easy. You depend on the services that Jo-Carroll Energy and Sand Prairie provide to be there when you need them. Our team is here for you 24/7, 365 days a year. The dedication and commitment of our team is admirable.

What drives that passion is our local presence. We are embedded in our communities and deeply care about each of you. Providing reliable service is what you expect. To us, going out to repair an electric distribution, natural gas or fiber internet line in negative 38-degree weather or during a thunderstorm is just another day; we are proud to serve you, our family, friends and neighbors.



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

Our mission is to deliver utility solutions to our members and communities – safely, efficiently and responsibly. Jo-Carroll continuously processes feedback from you and develops ways to enhance the services that we provide you, empowering you to be better, more competitive and successful.

This year's annual report and meeting will highlight the Power of Co-op Membership and the value that we bring to you and the communities that we serve through our services.

Our vision is to enhance your quality of life.

We look forward to meeting you, sharing additional information on services that we provide and responding to your questions at this year's annual meeting in Fulton, the evening of June 2.

MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Our office will be closed Monday, May 30 for the holiday.

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Jerry Meyer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Dan Tindell
District 4

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

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
www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

Resume of Minutes

February 23, 2022

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 9 a.m., via Zoom and in person.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Marcy Stanger on driving safety during hazardous conditions and proper lifting safety.

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Consent Agenda – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda to amend a typographical error in the minutes. The error will be amended accordingly. In addition, a motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda

Presentation – Keith Kaderly presented from "Inside Information". He provided a summary of the 2021-member satisfaction survey results and shared key performance, satisfaction and benchmarking trends. Keith also included demographic data.

Annual Report Cover – Brooke Michael, JCE Communications and Marketing Coordinator, shared a preview of the JCE Annual Meeting Report Cover and provided information on the location for the Annual Meeting, noting that it will be held at the Fulton High School on June 2, 2022. Brooke also included an overview of her background and expertise in the graphic design field.

Governance Topics & Board Policy Review

Board Policy 101/Former Director Advisory Group – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to rescind Board Policy 101/Former Director Advisory Group.

Board Policy 102/Director Search & Selection /Vacancies – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 102/Director Search & Selection/Vacancies.

Board Policy 103/Director Conflict of Interest – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 103/Director Conflict of Interest.

Board Policy 105/Directors Compensation and Benefits – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 105/Directors Compensation and Benefits.

Board Issues and Action Items

Resolution to Defer Revenue – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a resolution that classifies a portion of the Cooperative's operating margins from 2021 as deferred revenue to be recognized as revenue in monthly installments during 2022 and 2023 to help stabilize Members' rates over that period.

Budget or Levelized Pay Services – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to offer eligible business owners the opportunity to request budget or levelized billing.

Select Attendees for NRECA Directors Conference (April 2-5) – Attendees were selected to attend the NRECA Directors Conference.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO Casper discussed Jo-Carroll Energy's Evergreen Renewable Credits Agreement with the City of Galena. Casper also reminded JCE Directors of the upcoming rate change that will go into effect in March.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the financial operating report for January. Revenue for January is approximately \$6.9 million

vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$6.4 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses were approximately \$202,776 under budget. Margins are approximately \$1.3 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$508,704. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor. In addition, Woods noted that the auditors were recently on-site to perform their yearly audit. Woods also noted that the auditor's findings will be presented at the March board meeting, and that our current Auditor BKD will be merging with another firm forming one of the top ten audit firms in the country.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer provided an update on natural gas regulations and noted that we are working closely with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

COVID-19/Employee Update – V.P. of Human Resources, Merri Sevey discussed the all-employee training day that was recently held. Twice a year, our employees spend a day focused on training. She also complimented Alex Peebles, Manager of Safety and Loss Control, on the content of training that he helped organize.

2022 Initiatives – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services provided an overview of JCE's 2022 goals and initiatives.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – None.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review – None.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Chairman Senn provided highlights from the AIEC Board Meeting noting that co-ops are developing distributed generation (DG) net metering policies that meet new energy legislation requirements. Senn remarked that the Youth Tour to Springfield was canceled. However, the Youth Tour to Washington will still take place.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed the various topics within the natural gas (NG) industry. CEO Mike Casper shared that he recently participated in the APGA Direct Use Taskforce Group meeting.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley provided highlights from the DPC Regional Meeting and the presentations that were provided. Director Smith also commented on the content of the meetings, noting that they were very informative.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the PPI Board Meeting that centered on cleaner emissions and reduced CO2 carbon emissions.

Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 11:47 a.m.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 12:11 P.M.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Other Business – None.

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

No contested races for JCE board

All three directors on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors who are up for election in 2022 are running unopposed. Election will be by a vote of acclamation at the 2022 Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, June 2 in Fulton.

Bylaws of the cooperative provide that ballots will be mailed to members only in districts where more than one candidate has been nominated for an open board position. In districts with only one candidate, election is by a vote of acclamation.

The three districts up for election include Districts 1, 2 and 4.

DISTRICT 1

Jerry Meyer

East Dubuque, IL 61025



Jerry Meyer has been a member of the cooperative since 2005 when Jo Carroll acquired the Alliant Energy territory in Illinois. He was appointed to the Board of Directors to represent District 1 in 2021. Many members of District 1 may already know Jerry. He and his wife, Karen, have owned and operated J.M.'s Tap in Menominee, Illinois for over 39 years.

Jerry has served on several boards and committees in the East Dubuque and Menominee area, including 22 years as a trustee for the Menominee Dunleith Fire Protection District, the Menominee Athletic Club, trustee for the Village of Menominee, and serving as Park Commissioner for the Menominee Ballpark. Jerry and Karen are also active members of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Menominee.

As a local businessman, Jerry recognizes the importance of progressive thinking and good community

activism. He is excited to become a part of such a proactive and innovative team.

"In the short time I've been involved with the Board, I have been continually impressed with the Directors and the management that has been assembled to lead our cooperative during these exciting and challenging times," says Meyer.

Jerry encourages members to reach out to him with questions and comments. "I want people to know that I will help point them to the appropriate department at Jo-Carroll. I will do everything I can to focus on Jo-Carroll's vision that we exist to enhance the quality of life for our members."

Jerry currently serves on the Governance Committee and lists priorities for the co-op as; good safety practices, service reliability, and fiscal responsibility. He is excited to be part of the growth happening at Jo-Carroll like the fiber optics buildout through Sand Prairie, and the challenges the cooperative faces in energy efficiency and conservation. Since joining the board, Jerry has become certified through the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program.

Jerry and Karen have four children and eleven grandchildren. Each of them actively participates in the social and economic growth of their respective communities. Jerry looks forward to working with you and enhancing the future with Jo-Carroll Energy.

DISTRICT 2

Joe Mattingly

Scales Mound, IL 61075



Joe Mattingly is from rural Scales Mound and resides in Guilford township. He has been a member of the co-op

since the 1990s and a lifelong resident of northwest Illinois. Currently he serves as the northwest Illinois region President of Illinois Bank & Trust.

He is a graduate from Scales Mound High School. Post-graduation, Mattingly enlisted in the Navy as a medical corpsman. After his enlistment, he finished his college degrees at Highland Community and Columbia Colleges in Freeport.

Since his appointment to the board in May of 2006, he has brought ideas to Jo-Carroll Energy from his member constituents that have helped advance board and administrative policies and corporate culture.

He also represents Jo-Carroll Energy on the Dairyland Power Cooperative board of directors and is a member of the government affairs committee of the American Public Gas Association.

For a full review of Joe's business history, please review Joe's LinkedIn profile at: [linkedin.com/in/josephwmattingley](https://www.linkedin.com/in/josephwmattingley). Joe greatly appreciates all the past support of the district 2 members and is committed to continue to be a strong leader in serving them for the betterment of all Jo Carroll Energy Members!

DISTRICT 4

Dan Tindell

Galena, IL 61036



Dan Tindell was appointed to Jo-Carroll Energy's board of directors in 2017, and was elected to a 3-year

term in 2018.

Tindell and his wife, Pam, have been members of the cooperative since 1996. He retired in 2017 from the State of Illinois, where he

(Continued on page 18D)

Plan to attend the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members

All Jo-Carroll Energy members are invited to attend the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, June 2 at the Fulton High School.

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. with the business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a pork chop sandwich dinner.

Remember to bring the registration card from the 2022 Annual Report that was mailed to members in late April. Every membership in attendance will receive a \$10 bill credit.

Co-op displays will feature energy efficiency, safety, fiber internet and more!

During the official business session, you will hear updates from board chairman Dave

Senn and president and CEO Mike Casper. Special guest speaker is Dave Schryver, president & CEO of the American Public Gas Association.

One bylaw amendment will be considered. The proposed change is to "Article V Meetings of Directors" and relates to director participation by telephone or virtually. The wording change can be found in the Annual Report.

At the end of the meeting, door prizes will be awarded and a drawing will be held for the Director's Scholarships. Members must be present to win door prizes; students who have applied for the Director's Scholarships must be in

attendance with at least one parent or guardian. Members who can't attend are invited to submit questions in advance at jocarroll.com/annual-meeting and will be entered into a drawing for bill credits.

New this year!

We encourage families to attend the 2022 annual meeting! A kids' area with special activities for children ages 5-12 will be available during the business session. We'll have safety demonstrations, games, and more for our future co-op members. Hot dogs will be served during the appreciation meal.

(Continued from page 18C)

worked for the Department of Human Services as a caseworker. Until 2014, he served in the historic sites division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in Galena and Elizabeth. Tindell previously was a public school teacher at Springfield, IL School District #186.

Tindell says, "I have a better understanding of the struggles of our members making ends meet from my service as a caseworker, and my time as an acting site manager allowed me to serve the community of Elizabeth." He participated in two of the "Gathering of Elizabeth" community events and facilitated the state's recognition of the event with signs on US 20.

In terms of goals, the emergence of solar, wind and battery storage has changed the energy mix. Tindell said he believes that we need resiliency and capacity for our members working with Dairyland Power Cooperative and Prairie Power Inc. on a generation

mix that includes renewables such as wind and solar as well as natural gas (which can be quickly activated for peak generation).

"Collaborating with these cooperative partners is a key to our future." Tindell added that, "We need faster internet services for our members, which Sand Prairie is now doing in building the fiber infrastructure."

On the board, Tindell serves on the governance committee, and is an alternate director for Dairyland Power in LaCrosse, Wis. He has worked in finding former members on the list of unclaimed capital credits, which can be found at jocarroll.com on the link "My Account".

"I am encouraging members to prepare for electric vehicles (EVs), and our board is exploring options how we can prepare for EV charging stations in this decade," he said. Looking ahead, Tindell observed that "Jo-Carroll Energy and our members are facing uncertainties with energy and

the economy, and major decisions that the board makes will impact the future of our co-op."

Tindell believes in life-long learning. He began his career in the U.S. Air Force working on mainframe computer systems, and later as a public school teacher. Recently, he completed the Director's Gold certification, and felt that the Jo Daviess Leadership Forum (2001) was very impactful.

He has served on several boards in the past and presently is on the Apple River Fort Foundation Board, the Great River Amateur Radio Club in Dubuque, and chairs the mission's team at Galena Bible Church. Tindell is a member of American Legion Post #193.

His spouse, Pam, retired in 2021 as a preschool teacher at River Ridge CUSD #210. They have two daughters and several grandchildren. Emily is a nurse at Midwest Medical Center, and Grace now lives in Madrid, Spain.



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWER OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Fulton High School

1207 12th Street, Fulton, IL 61252 // Please use 13th Ave entrance by gym

4:30 pm : Member Registration

6:00 pm : Meeting of Members

7:00 pm : Pork Chop Sandwich Dinner
Hot Dog Dinner for kids

Check jocarroll.com/annual-meeting for updates.

**NEW
THIS YEAR!**

Activities for kids
ages 5-12 during
the meeting

Members who attend the meeting will receive one \$10 bill credit per membership.

JCE hosts meeting on distributed energy resources



Jo-Carroll Energy hosted a meeting on the co-op's updated distributed energy resources application process on Tuesday, March 22. Attending were area installers and electricians as well as JCE stakers and meter technicians.

Topics covered included changes to JCE's revised

application levels and fees, revised standards for certificates of completion and directory placards, and restrictions on interconnecting at non-standard voltage.

Ola Boye from Power Systems Engineering, Madison, presented information on updates to the

National Electric Code, smart inverters, integration of battery storage, grounding and best installation practices.

The co-op's policy and procedures for member-owned distributed generation can be found on jocarroll.com/member-owned-distributed-generation.

**PLUG
INTO
SAFETY**



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority
this month, and every month.



JCE sends two students to Washington, D.C.



Ruby Dickerson



Emma Blaum

Two high school students from Galena will represent Jo-Carroll Energy as the Youth to Washington Tour returns in 2022. Representing JCE are Emma Blaum and Ruby Dickerson, both sophomores at Galena High School.

Students within the co-op's service territory were invited to enter the Youth to Washington contest by completing an application and essay. The two were selected following interviews with Ashley Graham, vice president of member services, of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). **Dane P. Larsen**

Blaum and Dickerson will join students from across the state for the trip June 17-24.

The event, sponsored by electric and telephone cooperatives across the country, was started more than 50 years ago to introduce rural youths to the democratic form of government and cooperatives.

Send us your best shots!

Jo-Carroll Energy members are invited to submit their best photos for our 2022 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 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 service area.

We will choose 12 photos to appear on the pages of our 2023 photo calendar along with front and back calendar pages. Several other photos may be selected as honorable mention.

For complete rules and entry information, please visit jocarroll.com/photo-contest. We do ask that members limit their entries to five each.



Budget billing accounts recalculate in May

Members with budget billing for their electric and/or natural gas accounts will have the budget amounts recalculated in May.

Because the budget amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or debits may accrue, the May true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to check your May statement to see if your budget amount has changed. A message in blue will appear on your statement to indicate the new budget amount if the recalculation resulted in a change. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained 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 June.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing, your budget bill account or levelized billing, please contact the Member Service Department at 800-858-5522.

Budget Billing is an effective account management tool for many members. It is Eligible to members of Jo-Carroll energy who have at least 12 months of credit history with the Cooperative at the service address where budget or levelized is requested and have not exceeded the following annual use by service type:

- Electric service – any single or three phase account using less than 200,000 kWh per year
- Natural Gas – any service using less than 30,000 CCF per year

You can find more information on our website at jocarroll.com/budget-billing.



Helping households connect.

Jo-Carroll Energy, with its Sand Prairie internet service, has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a provider for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) a new longer-term program that replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on December 31, 2021 to help lower the cost of high-speed internet to eligible households in our area.

The program will continue to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, and virtual classrooms. The Affordable Connectivity Program will provide an on-bill credit of \$30 per month towards broadband service for qualifying households.

Who is eligible?

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets one of the following criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline
- Receives benefits under the free or reduced-price school breakfast or lunch program
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program

How do members apply?

Members interested in applying for assistance must:

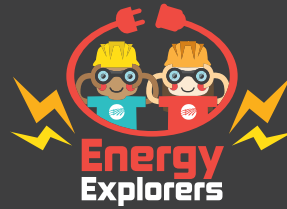
- First, apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program and be approved by the Universal Service Administration Co. (USAC). More information can be found here: www.fcc.gov/acp.
- Once eligibility is approved, complete a benefit enrollment request application with Jo-Carroll Energy. A webpage including the application form and additional information is available at www.connectsp.com/acp.



📞 800-858-5522 🌐 connectSP.com 📍 793 US 20 West, Elizabeth, IL 61028


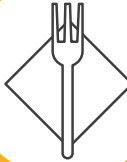


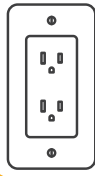







SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD

After you complete this activity, color the items with crayons or colored pencils.



When combined, electricity and common items that seem harmless can create dangerous situations. Look at the items grouped below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create an electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key.

1			
	toaster	fork	bagel
2			
	hairdryer	electrical outlet	running water
3			
	drone	power lines	picnic
4			
	swimming pool	floatie	extension cord

Answer Key: 1) fork & toaster 2) hairdryer & water or outlet & water 3) drone & power lines 4) extension cord & pool



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

