

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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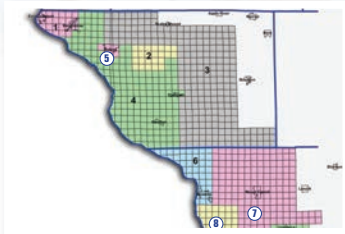
Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



18D-E

Rate increase

Inflation drives rate increase for 2022



18F-G

Food drive

Ten local food pantries receive donations



18H

Sand Prairie grant

JCE receives Connect Illinois grant for fiber internet project

Are you ready to serve?

Jo-Carroll Energy's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of community leaders, business owners, an attorney, a bank executive, retired first responders and public servants, financial and estate planners.

We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments in your cooperative. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want individuals with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We seek local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we look for individuals who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Jo-Carroll's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Jo-Carroll's board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- co-op strategic direction
- budgets and rates
- energy mix and sustainability goals
- co-op's community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more sustainable energy is driving change. Jo-Carroll Energy is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within the communities we serve.

(Continued on page 18C)

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

December 7, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2021, at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Dave Senn.

Presentation – None.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the financial operating report for October. Year to date (YTD) revenue is approximately \$53.9 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$52.8 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses were approximately \$1.5 million under budget. YTD margins are approximately \$5.1 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$1.7 million. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Board Issues and Action Items

Budget Review and Approval for 2022 – Chief Financial Officer, Chuck Woods provided a presentation of the proposed 2022 budget. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed budget for 2022.

PPI Reaffirmation Resolution – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the PPI Reaffirmation Resolution.

CFC New Credit Facility Resolution – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the CFC New Credit Facility Resolution, which was seconded by Director Smith and carried unanimously.

Select 2022 Board Meeting Dates – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the 2022 board meeting dates.

Select NRECA Course 2630/Strategic Planning

Attendees – Attendees were selected to attend NRECA Course 2630/Strategic Planning.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer provided a material update for the fiber buildout and commented that we have approximately 900 new subscribers to date and expect over 1,000 by year-end (2021). Buros also remarked on a number of new services for natural gas and electric services.

COVID-19/Employee Update – President and CEO Casper provided an update on COVID-19.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – Outside General Counsel, Terry Kurt provided an update on external affairs and local and state legislation and discussed the recent NRECA legal seminar, which he recently attended. CEO Casper commented on the recently passed infrastructure bill. Casper also commented that North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently issued their final report on the February 2021 winter freeze event.

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.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report

Director Carroll discussed the latest topics within the natural gas (NG) industry that included various topics relevant to the industry. Casper shared that APGA met with the U.S. Department of Commerce warning that shortages in the supply chain may have negative impacts to our industrial consumers, impacting commerce in the U.S.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)

Director Mattingley provided highlights from the DPC Board Meeting. Mattingley remarked that the DPC has approved the 2022 budget as well as their strategic plan. Buros also discussed highlights from a DPC meeting, which he recently attended.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report

Director Kuhns provided a summary of the PPI Board Meeting, sharing that peak electric prices have increased. In addition, he added that October was one of Prairie State Energy Campus' best generation months.

Executive Session – None.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

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.

Board nominations open in three districts

Jo Carroll Energy is owned and democratically controlled by the members we serve. The cooperative's service territory is divided into 10 director districts with each district represented by one director, elected by the members of the district to serve a three-year term.

In 2022, nomination petitions are available for members seeking election to serve their districts on the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors for Districts 1, 2 and 4.

Who can run

Any member, including the incumbent director, whose primary residence is in one of the districts up for election may petition for nomination.

Not sure of your district number? You can find it on your bill from the co-op or call us at 800-858-5522 for assistance.

How to run

To run for the board of directors, a member must file

a petition.

- Download a nomination petition from our website at <https://jocarroll.com/director-elections>. You may also call the co-op and ask that a petition be mailed to you.
- Collect at least 25 signatures from members residing in the district.
- File the petition at co-op headquarters in Elizabeth no later than April 1.
- Participate in an orientation process, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors.
- Provide a short biographical sketch and photo to be used in candidate profiles.

Details on director qualification and nomination procedure can be found in the cooperative's bylaws posted at jocarroll.com.

Elections

If two or more candidates file in a district, ballots and voting instructions are mailed to members in that district. A member votes for one candidate either by mail or online through a special election website.

If only one candidate files in a district, no election materials are mailed. Election is by vote of acclamation at the annual meeting of members.

Candidate profiles are included with election materials when there is a contested election. All eligible candidates will be listed on jocarroll.com and in a future issue of Hi-Lines.

Annual meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 at the Fulton High School in Fulton.

(Continued from page 18A)

Opportunity to serve

While you don't need to be an expert in energy, broadband or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board

members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to

help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I hope you'll consider running for a board position, now or in the future.

To learn more about our director election process and 2022 details, please visit <https://jocarroll.com/director-elections>.

New rates go into effect this month

Jo-Carroll Energy announced last month that the board of directors had approved the 2022 budget that included a rate increase for electric and natural gas rates. Those new rates go into effect this month and will be reflected on the bills members receive after April 7.

The rate increase is an average of 2 percent across member rate classes, well below the projected 2022 inflation rate. To maintain fair and equitable rates, cost of service studies for electric and natural gas, completed in 2021 and 2020, were utilized in the development of the rate adjustments. Our goal is to curb rate increases for our electric and natural gas members at or below inflation, while collecting sufficient revenue to cover expenses. Growth combined with a continued focus on efficiency improvements will help stabilize future rate adjustments.

Electric rates

For single-phase electric rates, the energy and transmission charges on member bills will increase slightly.

The energy charge is the base cost to produce your energy. It is a per kWh charge for the energy used during the service period. It will increase less than one cent per kWh. The transmission charge covers the cost to transmit energy from the generation supplier to Jo-Carroll Energy. It will increase about one cent per kWh.

The transmission increase is due to the power supplier revising the wholesale power rate that separates and identifies more of the transmission costs as such.

Other per kWh charges – delivery and generation – will decrease. The monthly facility and member service charges remain unchanged from 2021.

Natural gas

Natural gas members on Rate 42, farm and residential gas service, will see an increase in the delivery charge per therm. This rate will increase 2.5 cents per therm.

The *delivery charge* is a per therm charge that covers

the cost of delivering natural gas to a member's home and maintaining the equipment that carries the gas. Costs and facility charges continue to increase due to added regulation and inflationary pressures.

The natural gas monthly facility charge increases \$1 per month. The *facility charge* ensures that expectations for reliable, continuous energy are met. It allocates each member a fair and equal share of the cooperative's monthly operation and maintenance expenses no matter how much energy is sold. It provides the necessary funds that must be invested to build and maintain pipelines and other infrastructure and right-of-way maintenance as well as overall operating expenses.

See the accompanying charts for details on the changes in the single-phase electric rate and farm and residential natural gas rate classes. For information on other rate classes, please visit jocarroll.com.

The board approved the rate changes at its January 2022 meeting.



Area nonprofit, school and governmental organizations are encouraged to apply for Jo-Carroll Energy's

SHARING SUCCESS Grants

- Four grants to be awarded in 2022
- Applications must have broad reach in impact for community served
- Matching funds to be applied for through CoBank's Sharing Success program

Complete details at

jocarroll.com/sharing-success-grant-application

Application Deadline: March 30, 2022

Single Phase Electric Rate

Rate	Current	Revised	Change
Facility Charge	\$32 per month	\$32 per month	No Change
Member Service Charge	\$5 per month	\$5 per month	No Change
Delivery Charge	\$0.03750 per kWh	\$0.03321 per kWh	\$0.00429 decrease
Energy Charge	\$0.03500 per kWh	\$0.03655 per kWh	\$0.00155 increase
Generation Charge ≤ 1500 kWh	\$0.04500 per kWh	\$0.04297 per kWh	\$0.00203 decrease
Generation Charge > 1500 kWh	\$0.01800 per kWh	\$0.01597 per kWh	\$0.00203 decrease
Transmission Charge	\$0.01750 per kWh	\$0.02639 per kWh	\$0.00889 increase
PCA	\$0.003 per kWh	\$0.00001 per kWh	\$0.00299 decrease

Green – Distribution | Orange = Purchased Energy

Natural Gas Rate 42

Rate	Current	Revised	Change
Facility Charge	\$19 per month	\$20.00 per month	\$1 increase
Member Service Charge	\$5.00 per month	\$5.00 per month	No Change
Delivery Charge	\$0.38 per therm	\$0.405 per therm	\$0.025 per therm
Energy Charge	Varies Monthly	Varies Monthly	

Green = Distribution | Orange = Power Supply

In addition to the facility and delivery charges explained above, the charts reference the following charges on your bill:

Member service charge: a flat service fee covering administrative and account management costs including billing, postage, facilities, software systems and other overheads.

Energy charge: the base cost to produce your energy. It is a per kWh or therm charge for the energy used during the service period.

Generation charge: the base cost to produce your energy and the costs of the physical infrastructure needed to produce the energy.

Transmission charge: covers the cost to transmit energy from the generation supplier to Jo-Carroll.

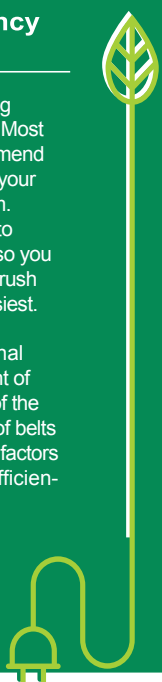
PCA (Power Cost Adjustment): a monthly adjustment used to recover changes when these costs fluctuate from the base cost. As the cost goes up or down, the PCA allows the co-op to flow through any increases or decreases as soon as practical.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Planning to build or expand?

Contact us first!

Spring is just around the corner, and that means construction season and home improvements will be in full swing.

If you are planning a new a home, livestock building, grain drying operation or commercial or industrial site, be sure to contact us first. Your existing electric service may need updating to serve additional load.

Please contact us as soon as possible to get on our construction schedule and help ensure that necessary electrical equipment will be available. Acquiring some

equipment may be delayed due to lead times from manufacturers.

Members should call 800-858-5522 for information about our new build processes. Members will need to supply load list, site plan, appropriate applications and easement.

Our natural gas members are also reminded to contact the cooperative if you have recently added or are planning to add a new natural gas whole-house generator, on-demand water heater or other natural gas appliance so we can make sure you have enough gas pressure to support your improvements.

Hunger's heroes

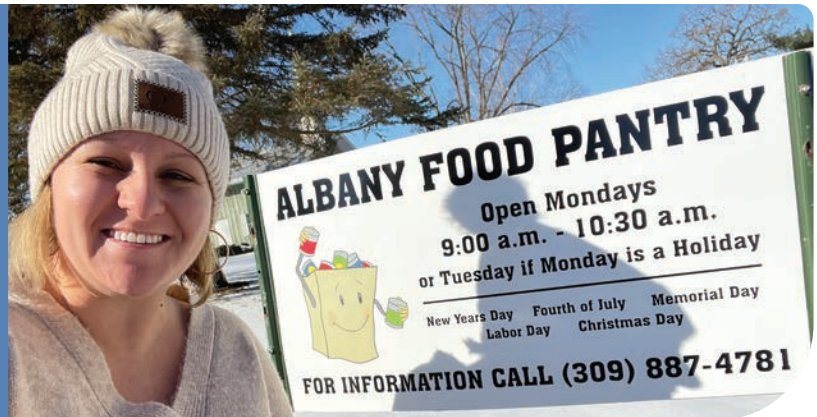
Because of our generous Jo-Carroll Energy members and employees, the 2021 Light Up the Holidays Food Drive had another successful year of donations.

All the proceeds were donated to 10 local food pantries within JCE's service territory. The JCE board of

directors also approved cash donations to each of the 10 pantries in the amount of \$500. The 10 pantries are:

- Albany Food Pantry
- East Dubuque Food Pantry
- Elizabeth Food Basket
- Erie Food Pantry
- Geneseo Food Pantry
- Hanover Food Bank
- Helping Hands Food Pantry (Milledgeville and Chadwick)
- Savanna /Mt. Carroll Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry
- United Churches of Galena Food Pantry

Jo-Carroll's Sara Lechowicz after delivering the non-perishable and \$500 donation to the Albany Food Pantry.



Leanne Dublo, director of the Milledgeville Food Pantry, and another volunteer accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Todd Chambers.

Tom VanGelder accepting a \$500 donation from Jo-Carroll's CEO and President Mike Casper, left, as well as several non-perishable items from JCE's Vicky Fulton and Peggy Francomb, right.





Nicole from the Geneseo Food Pantry accepting a \$500 donation and non-perishable items from Jo- Carroll's Laurel LeSage.

Marie Holland, left, of the Hanover Food Pantry accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of non-perishable food items from Jo- Carroll Energy's Missy Roe, right.



Jo-Carroll Energy Employees Jennifer Meyer, left, Missy Roe, Konnor Kiley, Ryan Doty, Justin Rolwes, Donnie Altfillisch, Steve Ludwig, Jeremy Whitmer, Jordan Esser, Nick Brown, Derek Bradt, Tim Knockel, Becky Brown, Cindy Maeder, Mike Casper, right, pose with all the non- perishable items that were donated.

The volunteers of Thomson/ Fulton Food Pantry with Jo-Carroll's staking tech Todd Chambers after accepting a \$500 check and non-perishable donations.





JCE receives Connect Illinois grant

High-performance fiber internet service will soon be available to more residents in unserved portions of Carroll and Whiteside counties.

Jo-Carroll Energy's broadband division, Sand Prairie, was awarded a \$4.6 million grant in Round Two funding in Connect Illinois grant awards.

The grant will enable construction of a fiber-to-the-premise project to bring Sand Prairie fiber to approximately 625 households, businesses or farms in rural portions of Whiteside, Carroll and Jo Daviess counties.

This project includes rural areas north of Mount Carroll as well as rural areas of Fenton, Fulton, Garden Plain and Albany and will build out 146.8 miles of fiber. The grant will be combined with JCE matching funds bringing the total project to \$9,377,681. Grant recipients have three years to spend funds. Engineering details are being finalized.

The grant areas have been named GPN1 and MTC9. Members can visit the fiber neighborhoods map at connectsp.com/fiber/communities and click on the link Connect Illinois Round 2 (GPN1 & MTC9) to track progress and signup for fiber internet service.

"This expansion of Sand

Prairie broadband will provide numerous benefits to our communities," said Jesse Shekleton, director of broadband operations. He noted the impact on area agriculture.

"Building a fiber network that provides the ultimate in broadband services to the farms and residences of the area will enable these members to access applications and tools to make their operations more efficient and enhance crop production," Shekleton said. "The economic benefit of helping agribusiness be more successful will trickle down to other businesses and individuals in and around the area."

He continued Sand Prairie's fiber service will offer increased speeds and enhanced reliability, "eliminating many challenges faced by area residents and businesses."

JCE president and CEO Mike Casper added the availability of fiber will enhance the quality of life for the area's residents. "Other benefits of our fiber expansion are access to telehealth and online education," Casper said. "Telehealth services allow patients to consult with their doctors without leaving home and in some cases, allow aging residents to stay in their homes longer."

"With the pandemic, we

have seen how all levels of education relied on virtual learning," he added. "Many schools are integrating online education as a key element or supplement to classroom work or using to makeup days due to weather or other factors. Students who do not have access to high-speed internet risk falling behind."

Casper and Shekleton both expressed their gratitude to the local residents, agri- and other businesses, farm organizations and residents who provided letters of support for the cooperative's grant application.

"Access to reliable, affordable high-speed broadband is vital to the overall prosperity of our region of northwest Illinois," Casper said.

"We are committed to working with our members and communities to provide fiber service that promotes economic stability, health and education in our rural communities," Casper said. "Thanks to this funding from the state, we are one step closer to bringing fiber to all our members and communities who want – and need – fiber internet."

This grant is the fourth the cooperative has received for its fiber to the premise projects. Additional applications are pending for qualifying areas.

NEED A LITTLE MORE GREEN?



It's that time of year again ... spring cleaning. While it may not be everyone's favorite pastime, adding a few simple cleaning tasks to your to-do list can help boost your home's energy efficiency, lower your electric costs and add a little jingle in your pocket.

- **Filters** – change the filter in your HVAC system and/or clean the air conditioning unit's filters.
- **Air ducts and vents** – clean out the dust and dirt that accumulates in air ducts and vents. This is better for your cooling system and improves air quality.
- **Windows** – installing curtains, blinds or shades to your windows will help stop the sun from heating up your home during warm months.
- **Ceiling fans** – when you dust your ceiling fans, be sure to change the direction of the fan blades. A counterclockwise rotation pushes cool air down and provides a cooling effect.
- **Refrigerators** – clear dust from refrigerator grill and check the door seals to make sure they are clean and tight.

Find out how simple things you do can add up at touchstoneenergy.com/energy-solutions or contact Jo-Carroll Energy at 800-858-5522.



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

