

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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Raising awareness of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

## The power of preparation

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we have included an article that shares information on ways to be prepared at home and where you work in the event of an emergency. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday" level of preparedness, even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event.

So, what is Jo-Carroll Energy doing to be better prepared in the event of an emergency situation or natural disaster?

- Our business continuity plan is in place to better position the cooperative to survive an extreme disruption to operations. A business continuity plan provides a game plan for what everyone at the cooperative should do in the instance of a disruption.

To enhance the ability to survive a disruption, JCE identifies and categorizes potential disruptions such as ice storms, tornadoes, supply chain disruptions and others. These potential disruptions are then evaluated and ranked according to probability of occurrence and added to the cooperative Risk Registry for appropriate planned response.

- Tabletop exercises have been conducted to walk participants, in a non-emergency and non-threatening setting, through various disruptions to identify gaps in response. Gaps are then closed so that real-life



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

situations are much less impactful, threatening and expensive. JCE has conducted tabletop exercises for such disruptions as ice storms, business unit recovery, loss of broadband services and others.

- Enterprise risk management takes a broad-brush look at hazards facing the cooperative as a whole. Risk mitigation initiatives have been put in place, such as IT Disaster Recovery and IT Cyber Security Incident Response, to greatly reduce the financial, strategic and operational risks faced by the cooperative.

Four primary ways to handle risk are available: Control, Transfer, Avoid or Accept. Each risk the cooperative faces is evaluated against these four methods of mitigation.

- We work with our communities and first responders through our Business Continuity Liaison Team to foster and enhance relationships with our community leaders so that in the instance of a disaster seamless communication and mutual cooperation occur. JCE knows that our communities are what makes us great. Having close ties during an

(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

**Robert Kuhns**

Treasurer

District 10

**Jerry Meyer**

District 1

**Joseph Mattingley**

District 2

**Dan Tindell**

District 4

**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**

www.jocarroll.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

**(800) 858-5522**

# Resume of Minutes

June 29, 2022

*The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP)  
was held on Wed., June 29, 2022.*

*A Safety Moment was provided by Director Jerry Meyer on Gun Safety.*

**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** – Manager of Gas Operations, Pat Anderson and Manager of Safety and Loss Control, Alex Peebles provided a Gas Public Liaison Presentation.

**Governance Topics & Board Policy Review** – A video was shared with the board on strategies to engage young adult members.

### Board Issues and Action Items

#### Select NRECA Region 5&6 Attendees –

Attendees were selected to attend the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting that will be held in September.

**Select NRECA Region 5&6 Voting Delegate/Alternate** – The NRECA Region 5&6 voting delegate and alternate were selected.

#### Select Badger Voting Delegate/Alternate

– The Badger Group voting delegate and alternate were selected.

#### Commitment to Support the NRECA

**International Program** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve financial support in the amount of \$1,500 to the NRECA International Program. This commitment of support will assist in bringing electricity to villages in Guatemala.

### CEO/Financial Operating Report

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Casper shared that due to inflationary pressures the cost of wholesale energy is higher than last year during this same month.

**Financial Operating Report** – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the financial operating report for May. Revenue for May is approximately \$27.4 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$26.5 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses were approximately \$912,018 under budget. Margins are approximately \$2.4 million vs. a budgeted amount of

approximately \$18,300. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

### Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

**Operations Update** – Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer, Kyle Buros, provided a history on Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which is an independent, non-profit organization committed to the safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power. MISO has three core responsibilities: maintaining grid reliability, transmission planning and market operations. Jo-Carroll Energy is part of MISO, which was formed in 2001.

**Member Care/Engagement** – V.P. of Member Services, Jennifer Meyer, provided an update on member engagement, the status of the office phones, and member medical priorities.

**Employee Update** – V.P. of Human Resources, Merri Sevey, provided an employee update on recently hired employees.

#### External Affairs/Legislative Update –

President and CEO Casper provided an update on the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA).

### Reports/Updates

#### Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

**(AIEC) Report** – Director Senn provided an update from the latest AIEC meeting and shared that he recently was invited as a guest speaker on a panel discussion with Cooperative Financial Professionals.

#### American Public Gas Association (APGA)

**Report** – Director Carroll discussed various new and proposed regulations affecting the natural gas (NG) industry.

#### Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) –

Director Mattingley provided highlights from the Dairyland Board Meeting, sharing that there would not be a power cost adjustment for June.

#### Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report –

Director Kuhns provided a summary of the

**(Continued on page 18C)**

# 2022 Jo-Carroll Energy Coloring Contest

The Jo-Carroll Energy Coloring Contest allows our young members between the ages of 5 and 10 to show their coloring skills each year for the chance to win a full set of school supplies for the upcoming fall school year.

Three winners are selected for the coloring contest, one from each age category. This year's winners are:

Avery Heller: Age 6

Paisley Heller: Age 8

Bryna Vesely: Age 10

JCE also donates five energy-related children's books to the winners' community libraries.

This year, the coloring page showcased our "Call Before You Dig" puppy to bring awareness about the importance and safety of calling 811 or J.U.L.I.E. before you dig at home. We want all our members to stay safe at their home, so whether it's digging for buried treasure or helping plant trees, JCE is there to provide those safety tips and tricks.

We want to thank all of our participants and wish all of our students a great 2022-2023 school year.



## "Minutes" continued from page 18B

PPI board meeting highlights and the most recent generation numbers, noting that they had record runs on the combustion turbines. Casper added that the PPI hedging policy saved PPI members \$2.4 million in 2021.

**CFC Forum** – Directors Stanger and Tindell recently attended the CFC Forum and provided highlights from the meeting.

**Executive Session** – None.

**Out of Executive Session** – None.

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

**Other Business** – None.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

## "Preparation" continued from page 18A

incident may shorten the potential magnitude and duration of the event to the benefit of all impacted.

- JCE has business continuity certified personnel on staff to develop and guide our plan preparation, tabletop exercises and all other aspects of business continuity according to accepted and proven industry standards.

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with whatever severe event that we may face in the future.

## 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.



# September is National Preparedness Month...

## Are you prepared?

**D**isasters can strike anywhere, anytime, but did you know the United States ranks second among countries with the most natural disasters? In 2021 alone the United States was struck by 64 severe thunderstorms. In total, 97 different natural disasters occurred that year in the United States. And, from 2000 to 2012, 3,836 earthquakes hit the United States. Statistics like these are a reminder of how important it is to be prepared for all kinds of disasters—from floods, hurricanes, and fires to human threats like active shooters or cyberattacks. National Preparedness Month, observed every September, is the perfect opportunity to get prepared. Let's look at some of the actions you can take to build a base level of preparedness.

### Preparedness where you work

Just as businesses regularly test generators to ensure proper operation, they also regularly review their crisis and contingency plans and supplies. These are just some of the steps that can help protect your place of work from disaster:

- Identify a business continuity champion to lead the organization's efforts.
- Review the emergency response plan, update it, and exercise it at least once per year.
- Review the emergency action plan and disaster recovery plan annually and update as necessary.

- Facilitate an annual threat assessment to determine business risks.
- Train staff on safety issues to be better prepared during a disaster.
- Review and update your crisis communications plan on a regular basis.
- Meet monthly with your emergency management committee/managers to discuss disaster preparedness.
- Review your vendor and supplier contact list and update if necessary.
- Communicate and train employees on crisis management roles and responsibilities.
- When responding to disasters, implement the Incident Command System (ICS) used by federal, state, and local municipalities.
- Test equipment regularly by inspecting batteries, generators, fuel, water, pumps, etc.
- Develop relationships with your state and local emergency management agencies and staff.

### Preparing with your co-workers

Conducting drills and preparedness activities can help employees understand what types of disasters could happen, learn what to do to be safe, and take action to increase their own preparedness at work. Encourage employees to take these steps to be better prepared:

- Review the emergency communications plan for your department.
- Sign up for local emergency text message alerts and warnings.
- Download mobile emergency preparedness apps from FEMA and the American Red Cross.
- Build an emergency supply kit (see below).
- Practice going to a protective location or safe room in the event of an emergency.
- Practice specifically for potential disaster scenarios that are relevant to your geographic area, such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, ice storms or earthquakes.

### Preparedness counts at home

Safety at home is just as important as safety at work. Start by finding reliable information sources, warning systems, and alert systems in advance of any disaster, and remember that family communication is very important. Start by building an emergency supply kit (see below). The Department of Homeland Security provides downloadable family emergency plan resources at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) which help you collect vital information on convenient wallet-sized cards. It's also critical to determine school and workplace plans so you know how to communicate with family members who may not be at home when a disaster occurs.

## Build an emergency supply kit

What supplies should you include in an emergency supply kit? On [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) you'll find a recommended list that includes:

- Water—one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation.
- Food—at least a three-day, nonperishable supply.
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both.
- A flashlight and extra batteries.

- A first aid kit.
- A whistle to signal for help.
- A dust mask to help filter contaminated air.
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- A wrench or pliers to turn off utilities. **Daniel Pritchett**
- A manual (nonelectric) can opener for food.
- Local maps.
- Cell phone chargers – battery pack or a solar charger.

Remember that you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice, so you won't

have time to search for the supplies you need, let alone shop for them. Disaster supply kits should be assembled well in advance of an emergency.

## Take the first steps

Preparation extends beyond National Preparedness Month and can include disaster awareness and preparedness activities throughout the year. Taking action now with your family and at work can allow you to remain safe before, during, and after a disaster. To learn more about these efforts, gain additional insights and review best practices, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

***When it comes to severe weather...  
hope for the best, **but prepare for the worst.*****



- \_\_\_ Drinking water & food
- \_\_\_ Blankets, pillows, & clothing
- \_\_\_ Basic first-aid supplies
- \_\_\_ Medications
- \_\_\_ Basic toiletries
- \_\_\_ Flashlights
- \_\_\_ Battery-operated radio
- \_\_\_ Extra supply of batteries
- \_\_\_ Cell phone with chargers
- \_\_\_ Cash and credit cards
- \_\_\_ Basic tools (duct tape, wrench, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Important documents & numbers
- \_\_\_ Toys, books, & games
- \_\_\_ Baby supplies
- \_\_\_ Pet supplies

You can begin your preparation by assembling an emergency preparedness kit, which includes items to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit.



# Voter registration day is Sept. 20

## Five easy ways to exercise your civic duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Jo-Carroll Energy, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government.

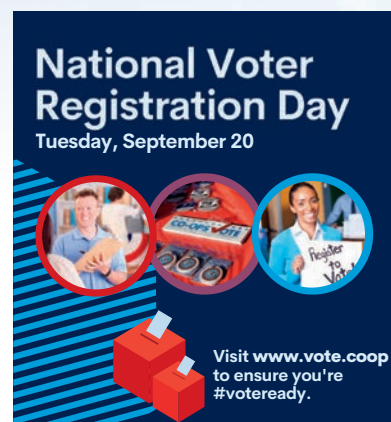
Many important policy issues directly impact utilities and ultimately you, the members we serve proudly. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for the co-op and its member and local communities.

While JCE is a local, member-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through the nonpartisan grassroots program known as Co-ops Vote, we work with others across the nation to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout.

There is power in numbers. When we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. Here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

1. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) and click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
2. Get informed. Learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.
3. Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use the hashtags to let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteRead. Encourage your friends and family to do the same.
4. Help others prepare to vote. Volunteer with a National Voter Registration Day event (visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events)



to find one in your area), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.

5. Vote! It's the easiest and most important way you can exercise your civic duty.
6. We encourage everyone – regardless of political beliefs – to vote, stand up for your local community and make a collective impact.

## Help us find members with unclaimed capital credits

Jo-Carroll Energy is looking for members or former members who may have unclaimed capital credits, and we need your help.

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in the cooperative. As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, we return margins as capital credits.

Capital credits are retired annually to current and previous members of the cooperative. Several of

these retirements have gone unclaimed. This can happen if capital credit checks are returned to us because inactive members forget to notify us when they move or family doesn't contact us if a co-op member dies.

We do our best to find new addresses or next of kin. You can help us by reviewing the list of unclaimed capital credits on our website. If you recognize any of these names, ask them or the executor of the

estate to contact our office.

The list can be found at [jocarroll.com/capital-credits](http://jocarroll.com/capital-credits).

It is important to keep your contact information up to date even if you leave our service area so that any future capital credit retirements can be returned. If you need to update your address after moving out of our service territory, please call us at 800-858-5522 and a member care representative will assist you.



# Celebrate National Drive Electric Week

The week of Sept. 23-Oct. 2 is set for this year's observance of National Drive Electric Week, a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

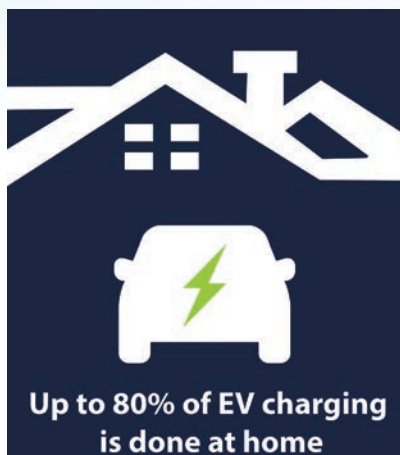
Jo-Carroll Energy is a part of CHARGE™, a national electric vehicle (EV) charging brand powered by electric cooperatives that promotes and educates members about EVs.

According to CHARGE, electric vehicle owners say EVs are responsive, require minimal maintenance and are fun to drive.

Should an EV be YOUR next vehicle? Before buying – or if you're already charging an EV at home, contact the trusted energy advisors at JCE.

EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day you charge your EV can have an impact on the grid and your monthly energy costs. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption.

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.



## Level One Charging

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

## Level Two Charging

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see

Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings and multi-family community spaces.

## DC Fast Charging

DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV at 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations.

## Local charging stations

JCE offers two EV charging stations:

- A co-op powered and owned charging station at 311 E. Myrtle St., Elizabeth. Located in a village parking lot next to the Apple River Fort visitor center, this station is 50kW Tritium charge with two kinds of plugs, a CHAdeMO and a CCS/SAE plug. Cost of charging is \$.30/kWh.
- JCE's first cooperative-powered and owned charging station is located at the co-op office at 103 Chicago Ave. in Savanna. Located in the co-op parking lot, this charger has one type of plug, two J-177s plugs.

# NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK 2022

SEPT. 23 to OCT. 2

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# Weatherize today and save tomorrow

Old Man Winter's wrath will be here before we know it and now is the time to protect your home against his icy winds and driving snow. Take steps now to help lower your energy consumption and heating bills.

Proper home weatherization can pay big dividends for a few dollars spent.

Weatherization means installing the proper amount of insulation, caulking around doors and windows, and replacing or adding weather stripping.

*For more information about weatherizing your home, contact our Energy Advisor at 800-858-5522*



## Jo-Carroll Energy

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

