

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



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Co-op planning focuses on risk management

Your board of directors recently met for a two-day planning session with an emphasis on enterprise risk management (ERM). In addition to reviewing our current strategic objectives of growth, operational excellence and enhancing cooperative value, we discussed and broke down the results of a survey that was conducted identifying the top risks for your cooperative.

The top three risks that were identified:

- **1.Revenue risks** Slow or no customer growth and loss of load. It is important to continue to spur beneficial growth and stabilize rates.
- 2. Cyber security The organization's capability to continue critical operations and processes are at a greater risk due to the availability of information technologies, terrorism and vandalism.
- **3. Engaging and communicating**with members Develop and improve relationship with members, including an emphasis on younger members to help achieve the cooperative's vision, mission and goals.

Other top risks identified:

- **4.Power supply agreements including energy and broadband bandwidth** Develop ways to avoid problems with supply and price spikes (i.e., Texas).
- **5. Legislative requirements –**Work closely with our cooperative network (i.e., statewide and national associations) to lobby



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

for cooperative friendly policies that are in the best interest of our members.

- 6. Board, CEO and staff succession planning – Develop plans for emergency, interim and long term for each area.
- 7. National supply/cost disruption (materials) – The potential for managing through significant changes in the cost and availability of materials.

Next steps will be for Jo-Carroll Energy staff to prepare mitigation recommendations for the top risks and develop action plans by the end of the year.

Once the plan is accepted by the board, staff will provide quarterly updates to the board.

The ERM planning session results represented a consensus of Jo-Carroll Energy's board and management as of May 14, 2021. The results were based on the knowledge and discussion at a snapshot in time. Strategic plans must be fluid and revisited as changes in the cooperative's environment occur.

Please be assured that as part of our business continuity and disaster recovery plan, we are continuously planning and preparing your cooperative to be there for you when disaster strikes.

For your information

Your Board of **Directors:**

David Senn

Chairman District 7

Russell Holesinger

Vice Chairman District 8

Marcia Stanger

Secretary District 3

Vacant

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 JCE lobbies have re-opened for regular business hours

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

April 28,2021

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via video phone conference on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Joe Mattingley.

Presentations - A presentation was provided by Jo-Carroll Energy Manager of Natural Gas (NG) Operations Pat Anderson. Anderson provided information regarding recent NG events and ongoing expansion and maintenance of the system.

A presentation was also provided by Jo-Carroll Energy Digital Media Coordinator Jamie Kluzek. Jamie discussed the upcoming JCE Annual Meeting that will be held on August 3rd at the River Ridge School district and the theme for the event.

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report - Chairman Senn discussed the NRECA Legislative Conference where both Senn and President and CEO Michael Casper attended virtually. The meeting provided an opportunity for the cooperative to meet with legislators representing the areas Jo-Carroll Energy serves and discuss topics of interest. Topics included opportunities to reduce carbon emissions without penalizing co-op members, expansion of broadband funding and streamlining reviews. Senn noted that the meetings were very productive.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) - Director Mattingley discussed the DPC highlights, noting his role on the business development taskforce with a focus on increasing revenue and growth that will help stabilize future wholesale energy rates. Mattingley also noted that the Genoa electric generation plant is closing, and that the deceleration of the plant is now

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report

- President and CEO Mike Casper noted that he had been invited by the APGA to speak with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioners regarding the spike in NG prices in February. Casper also commented that British Petroleum (BP) PLC will spend approximately \$1.3 billion to build a network of pipes and other infrastructure to collect and capture natural gas that is produced as a byproduct from oil wells in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico, helping reduce methane emissions.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report -

Director Kuhns provided a summary of the most recent electric generation numbers and expanded on the positive impact that Alsey 6 provided during the February cold weather event.

Board Policy 102.1/Director Elections – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 102.1.

Board Policy 105 B/Cooperative Personal Property or Equipment Provided to Directors - A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 105 B.

Board Policy 106/Service Recognition of Retiring Directors - A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 106.

CEO Report – Casper shared with the board that the focus of the upcoming strategic planning session in May will be Enterprise Risk Management. Results of a survey will be discussed working towards an

agreement on the top risks that Jo-Carroll Energy will focus on mitigating.

Financial Operating Report - CFO Woods provided a summary of the financial operating report for March. YTD revenue is approximately \$19.5 million vs. a budgeted amount of \$22.4 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses were approximately \$1.5 million over budget, due to the increased purchased gas expense. YTD margins are approximately \$2.4 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$751,000. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Board Issues and Action Items

Attendees were selected to attend the Dairyland Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a Director and Alternate Director to serve on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a Director and Alternate Director to serve on the Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Board of Directors.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate for the PPI Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a Director and Alternate Director to serve on the Association of Illinois Cooperatives (AIEC) Board of Directors.

Attendees were selected to attend the Board Leadership Course.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate for the AIEC Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate for the Illinois National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Election.

Operations and Regulatory Update

Operations Update - Kyle Buros, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer discussed key take-aways from the Member Satisfaction Survey. Buros also provided information on the upcoming Strategic Planning sessions scheduled with the board.

Covid Update - Merri Sevey, V.P. of Human Resources, provided an update on Covid statistics in our region, as well as highlights on our return to office

Action Resulting from Executive Session - None.

Other Business - None.

Adjournment - Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.





2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 | River Ridge School

4141 IL Route 84 South, Hanover, IL 61041

4 pm : Member Registration | 6 pm : Meeting | 7 pm : Drive-Thru Boxed Dinner CDC and IDPH guidelines for gatherings will be followed. Check jocarroll.com/annual-meeting for updates.



- Call 800-858-5522 ext. 1208.
- · Complete the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/JCE_AnnualMeeting2021

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Two contested races for **Jo-Carroll Energy board**

wo Jo-Carroll Energy districts will have contested elections for directors in this year's board elections.

Four director posts are up for election in 2021. Both Districts 5 and 7 will have contested elections. District 5 candidates are the incumbent director Pat Smith and nominee Peter Regez, both of Galena. District 7 candidates are the incumbent director David Senn and nominee Martin McDonough, both of Mount Carroll. Incumbents Russell Holesinger in District 8 and Robert Kuhns in District 10 are running unopposed.

Candidate biographies can be found below and on the following pages.

Election process - one candidate

When only one candidate files in a district, no ballots are mailed, and the election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual

meeting. Election of directors in Districts 8 and 10 will be by a vote of acclamation at the 2021 annual meeting to be held on Aug. 3 in the River Ridge Middle School gym, Hanover.

Election process - more than one candidate

If more than one candidate files for the director position in a district or districts, an election by ballot is held for only those districts. Members may vote for one candidate for the district in which they reside - or in which the member is entitled to vote.

Jo-Carroll Energy works with Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) to conduct the election. A hybrid voting method is used that allows members to either vote by mail or online.

Ballots and voting instructions, including information about the online option, will be mailed to

each member residing in Districts 5 and 7. Members in each district only vote in their district. A vote can be cast by either the mailed paper ballot or online. Only one vote per membership counts.

Ballot packets and information will be sent to members in early July. ujellivuog eilse

If voting by paper ballot, members will complete their vote as usual. Completed ballots will be returned via mail in the provided envelope to SBS, who will deliver the results to Jo-Carroll Energy.

If voting online, members will be able to access the voting portal through a website by using a unique ballot ID and election passcode.

SBS processes and tabulates all ballots, both paper and online.

The election website opens July 1 at 8 a.m. The election closes Aug. 1; the online voting site closes at 4 p.m.

Candidate profiles

Candidates are listed by district in alphabetical order by last name.

DISTRICT 5

Peter Regez

11703 W. Red Gates Road, Galena



Peter Regez wants to add his leadership abilities and industry expertise to Jo-Carroll Energy's board

of directors and

provide bold, cost-effective, safe, reliable solutions today, while thinking about tomorrow. He believes that quickly expanding internet access is a key feature in Jo-Carroll Energy's plan and wants to help expand the program.

"With today's mobile workforce, online education, and increased data needs, universal access to high-speed internet is a necessity

for our economy. It is also important to prioritize energy efficiency, conservation, and ensure equitable rate structures," says Regez.

He has been a Cooperative member for over 14 years and has served on the Jo-Carroll Energy Member Advisory Council since 2018. Regez earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. During his 30 years as an electrical engineer, he gained in-depth knowledge of the utility industry. For the last two decades, he has worked at Alliant Energy managing projects, ensuring regulatory compliance, mentoring employees, and creating a safe, diverse working environment.

Regez is a registered Professional Engineer and a member of several electrical engineering professional associations. He peer reviews technical publications in his field and plans annual professional development events. At home and at work, as well as in the community, Regez works toward creating a greener future by practicing sustainability. He coorganizes the Galena Earth Day Fest and National Drive Electric Week events and volunteers at the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and Jo Daviess/Carroll Solid Waste Agency.

Regez lives in rural Galena with his wife, Hendrica, his son Lukas, and their dog Willie. He also has three children living across the country. His hobbies include beekeeping, woodworking, and playing guitar.

Continued on 20E

DISTRICT 5

Pat Smith - Incumbent

712 Park Ave., Galena



Pat Smith has served as a director of Jo-Carroll Energy for 14 years.

She is a Certified Director. having completed the Director

Gold Program and the Board Leadership Program. Smith continues to keep these certifications up-to-date.

As the Jo-Carroll Energy Director for District 5, Smith has served on the Policy Committee, Power Supply Committee, New Director Selection Committee and Annual Meeting Committee. She has been a vot-

ing delegate for The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and an alternate for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative.

Smith stated, "Jo-Carroll Energy is a positive and supportive organization that works with its members to promote economic growth of our service area. She endorses the proactive approach of Jo-Carroll Energy in its support of the Northwest Illinois Economic Development Board. Smith says that community solar farms and the build out of broadband and fiber to our members are examples of Jo-Carroll's commitment to "enhance the quality of life for our members." She will continue to represent the members to the best of her ability in the coming years.

Smith and her husband, Ron, are lifelong residents of Galena. They have three children: Kathy (Jay), Lynn (David), Ron (Lori), eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and two more on the way. They have lived in the same neighborhood for 50 yrs.

Smith retired from the Galena School District after 23 years of service.

She enjoys serving her community. She was an organist at St. Michael Church for many years. She has served as a director on The Galena Foundation Board, The Turner Hall Restoration Committee and the Grant Park Restoration Committee. She has volunteered at Galena Country Fair for many years and served as Vendor Chair for 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 7

Martin B. McDonough 406 S. College St., Mount Carroll



Martin McDonough has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since April 2015. McDonough

as a nuclear trained submarine officer including tours as Chief Engineer and Commanding Officer of Fast Attack nuclear submarines. He served as a senior member of the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board charged with annual certification of nuclear ships, submarines and repair facilities.

After serving in the Navy, Mc-Donough worked as a reactor engineer at a commercial reactor, operations manager at a test reactor and maintenance manager for several electrical generating plants.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975, a Master's degree in Nuclear Engineering at the University of Virginia in 1976 and completed naval nuclear power training in 1977.

McDonough said "My last job before retiring was maintenance manager for all Hawaiian Electric's generating assets on Oahu. I was also responsible for the controls engineers charged with integrating renewables with firm generation. On sunny, windy days, a third of Oahu's electricity is generated by renewables. This is something Jo-Carroll Energy is now experiencing, albeit on a much smaller scale."

McDonough added, "With my operations, maintenance and renewable energy integration experience, I believe I can contribute to the board."

His prior board experience as a board member includes the board of the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and the board of the SS America Memorial Foundation in Sequin, Texas.

McDonough and his wife, Catherine, have one son and one daughter. He enjoys mentoring young people in mathematics. His interests include celestial navigation and history.

DISTRICT 7

David H. Senn - Incumbent 13575 West Point Road, Mount Carroll



David Senn has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since August 1982. Senn has been on the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors since the fall of 2007,

and currently serves as chairman of the board.

As a director, he has completed all the courses to achieve director gold status. Currently, he represents Jo-Carroll Energy on the board of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. There he serves on the statewide scholarship committee and is chairman of the resolutions committee. He has represented Illinois at the national level by being involved in the rewriting of the

resolution process and serving on the advisory council as well as being a presenter at meetings of electric cooperatives.

A graduate of Northern Illinois University in 1968, Senn received a B.S. degree in accounting. After graduation from NIU, he became a naval aviator and achieved the rank of lieutenant. Upon separation from the Navy, he entered into a career in the brokerage industry that included

Continued on 20F

DISTRICT 7

David H. Senn - Incumbent (continued from 20E)

a five-year stint in New York City. He completed a two-year program and achieved the Certified Financial Planner designation in 1994. He worked as a certified financial planner until his retirement in 2007.

"Having had the opportunity to attend national and state meetings, sessions with our elected officials and education training sessions, I realize I have been given a leg up and placed in a position where my experience will permit me to be able to deliver to the members of Jo-Carroll Energy innovative, diversified and energy products, which will enable them to grow and prosper in the century ahead," he stated. "Our goal of bringing high-speed internet to our members is a part of this vision."

"We as a nation stand on the threshold of change. The future of energy consumption and availability of things we have become accustomed to appear to be in a state of turmoil," Senn stated. "I believe

Jo-Carroll Energy is positioned to provide stability during these trying times, and I hope to be a part of this process as we move forward." Senn is actively involved in many conservation groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Senn has a son who is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. After a 27-year courtship, Senn married Shirley Dykema on June 2, 2010.

DISTRICT 8

Russell Holesinger

825 Middle Road, Fulton



Russ Holesinger has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since the co-op acquired the Alliant Energy territory and was elected to the Board of Direc-

tors in 2009. Russ has been a practic-

ing attorney since 1977 in the areas of real estate and estate planning.

Holesinger Law Offices is located in Fulton and Morrison, Illinois, Russ and his wife. Jan. have two sons and one daughter and they have been blessed with 10 grandchildren.

"Serving on the Board allows me the opportunity to contribute to my community and to learn more about the benefits of the co-op," Russ said.

Also, Russ appreciates the opportunity of learning more about the energy

business through the classes offered to the Directors and the hands-on experience from the boardroom.

"Jo-Carroll has grown significantly during my years as a director, and the co-op model brings out the best in the employees which ultimately benefits the members," he said. "Jo-Carroll has also been very supportive of the economic growth of the communities which we serve. It has been a privilege to serve at the Board level.'

DISTRICT 10

Robert (Bob) Kuhns 19789 E. 1650 St., Geneseo



Robert (Bob) **Kuhns** has been a cooperative member since 1975 and became a Jo-Carroll Energy member at the time of the

merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company. Kuhns served on the Farmers Mutual Board of Directors for nearly 20 years and was secretary/ treasurer for most of that time.

A graduate of Millikin University with a B.A. degree in Music Education and with two summers of graduate study at the University of Iowa, Kuhns taught instrumental and vocal music for 15 years in Iowa and Illinois. Now retired, Kuhns had his own piano tuning business for 49 years and was a registered piano technician and

member of the Piano Technicians Guild for 45 years. In addition, he has 30 years as an emergency veterinary assistant and maintenance man for his wife's veterinary practice.

Kuhns has served on the charitable foundation, GIFT ("Geneseo Is For Tomorrow"), as a board member, treasurer and president. He currently represents Jo-Carroll Energy on the "Prairie Power" electric distribution co-op board in Springfield.

Appointed to the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors in 2014 and elected in 2015, Kuhns stated, "I enjoyed the experience of serving on the Farmers Mutual board and continuing that service on the Jo-Carroll board.

"My wife's grandparents were some of the first to sign up for the newly formed Farmers Mutual Electric co-op in 1936," he noted. "Her parents were co-op members through their lifetime. When we moved back to the area in 1975, it was an easy decision to choose our local electric co-op over the investor owned utility.

"Some years later, one of my neighbors approached me about running for a board position as he was about to retire. I accepted, was successful and served on the Farmers Mutual Electric Board until the merger with Jo-Carroll. Now that I am—mostly—retired I have more time to devote to board duties and responsibilities," he said.

Kuhns and his wife of 56 years. Barbara, have no children but between them have 10 brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews. They also have a dog, two horses, a pony and a cockatoo from Australia.

Kuhns has several interests, many involving music as he enjoys playing musical instruments, singing and writing music. He also flies his own airplane, and enjoys bicycling, horseback riding and walking as well as being a home handyman.

Local agencies receive Sharing Success grants

o-Carroll Energy recently awarded grants totaling \$20,000 to four recipients through the CoBank Sharing Success program.

The Sharing Success program reflects two key principles that guide all co-ops, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and "Concern for Community."

CoBank is a cooperative bank that assists rural America with financial services to agribusiness and rural electricity, water and communication providers in all 50 states. CoBank matches contributions by its cooperative members to the charitable organizations, schools and government organizations that serve a public purpose and are consistent with the program's purpose and guidelines.

Selected to receive Sharing Success matching grants in the Jo-Carroll Energy service area were (each amount is the total with the JCE grant plus the CoBank match):

Great River Outreach, Savanna - A \$5,000 grant to support expansion and renovation of the GRO's facilities on Main Street in Savanna. The GRO coordinates clothing, food, shelter and other support for those in need. GRO is meant to be a place where those in need can access multiple resources conveniently, while the stakeholders in the community (service partners, churches, community volunteers) can all be connected to provide the most efficient access to needed services. The three main components are:

- **Bridges of Carroll County,** a community and resource center which also provides a shared space where their service partners can meet with clients.
- 2. Classy Closet, a resale shop for new and gently used clothing. Proceeds will fund the ministries the GRO operates including Bridges, the Table/Golden Meal Center and the Stronghold Summer Bible Camp.
- The Table, which has served more than 70,000 hot meals to those in need within Savanna and surrounding communities. NICAA Gold Meals will utilize this site to prepare and package meals for delivery across the Carroll County region.

Jo Daviess Carroll Career **Technical Education (CTE)** Academy, Elizabeth – a \$5,000 grant to purchase and install perimeter fencing around the planned preschool playground. The playground will be a "natural" playground without traditional equipment.

The Little Learners Academy at the CTE offers high school students from six northwest Illinois school districts the opportunity to learn and teach preschoolers, ages 3-5 during the day. In March, the CTE Academy board approved beginning a childcare program this summer at the CTE Academy. Starting in June, the academy began offering before and after school childcare for children ages 3-10. The academy is also increasing the number of preschools in its half-day and full day Little Learners Academy, having them attend Monday through Friday. Before school hours are 7 - 7:45 a.m. and after school hours 3:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Continued on 20H



Sharing Success grants - Continued from 20G







Whiteside County Sheriff's Office, Morrison - a \$5,000 grant toward the cost of a K9, training and equipment. The sheriff's office, the largest law enforcement agency in Whiteside County, is adding the K9 to its patrol division.

The K9 will be trained to find lost/ missing people, locate and assist in the apprehension of wanted criminals, protect the handler and other officers in the event they are attacked and locate heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine. The grant helps offset some of the costs of this asset. Because the sheriff's office has jurisdiction throughout the county, the K9 will be available to assist every agency, resident and visitor within the county. Additionally, the K9 will be available (upon request) to assist surrounding counties should the need arise.

West Carroll CUSD 314, Mount Carroll - a \$5,000 grant to support an upgrade of the district's phone system for all three schools (located in Mount Carroll, Savanna and Thomson) and the district office. The project will include facilitating service and equipment for 28 trunks and 163 extensions, and accommodate fire, blue point and fax lines at each building.

Reader prize

ach 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.

JCE CO-OP REMINDERS

Holiday closings

 Our offices will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day



New program helps members stay connected

Jo-Carroll Energy, with its Sand Prairie broadband service, has been approved as a provider for the new program designed to help eligible households pay for internet service.

The temporary program was launched by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) provides an on-bill credit of up to \$50 per month toward select internet services 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 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain government assistance programs.
- Receives benefits under the free or reducedprice school breakfast or lunch programs.

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since Feb. 29, 2020.

How do members apply?

Members interested in applying for assistance must:

- First apply for the EBB program and be approved by the Universal Service Administration Co. (USAC). More information can be found here: GetEmergencyBroadband.org
- Once eligibility is approved, complete a benefit enrollment request an application with Jo-Carroll Energy. A webpage including the application form and additional information is available at connectSP.com/ebb.

The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares and end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.



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