

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



20C

Scholarships

Apply for local and statewide scholarships



20D

Billing options

Budget or leveled billing may be right for you



20H

Food drive

Donate food, receive a free light bulb

Overview of the new Illinois energy legislation

It is Jo-Carroll Energy's opinion that policy did not get too far ahead of technology. The new legislation provides time for consumer-owned electric cooperatives to transition from traditional power plants to newer technology while continuing to provide reliable and affordable electricity service.

The legislation also provides a transition period to a lower carbon generation mix. Electric cooperatives support the advancement of a lower carbon energy supply including renewable resources consistent with this new legislation. Cooperatives within Illinois continue to add renewable resources such as wind and solar, which are fair and equitable for our member consumers. We also appreciate the reliability off ramps provided within the legislation that allows traditional generation to continue to operate if deemed necessary by the regional grid operators.

We will continue to monitor, through our state and national cooperative organizations, emerging legislation and policy to ensure our members are treated fairly. We will continue to resist policy that unfairly shifts costs towards our membership or puts policy ahead of electric supply reliability and affordability.

Electric cooperatives have and continue to be focused on providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members. Safe, reliable,



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

and affordable electricity service to homes and businesses is essential for all consumers.

Prairie State

The legislation creates a pathway for Prairie State, a plant owned by not-for-profit electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, including Jo-Carroll, that serve families across eight states, to operate through Dec. 31, 2045. The legislation requires a carbon emissions reduction of 45 percent by June 30, 2038, and a target of achieving zero emissions by Dec. 31, 2045. Our goal throughout has been to protect affordability for our rural electric cooperative member consumers and the local communities that rely on Prairie State for reliable baseload power.

Right to Self-Generate

The General Assembly declares that electric cooperatives shall

(Continued on page 20F)

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.

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

August 25, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Dan Tindell on driving safety.

Presentations – BKD CPAs and Advisors provided an overview of the Form 990.

Board Issues and Action Items –

Approve Form 990 – By general consent, the board approved the form 990.

Select Voting Delegates for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting – Voting Delegates were selected for the NRECA, CFC, Federated and RESO meetings in conjunction with the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting.

Northwest Illinois Economic Development Annual Meeting – Attendees were selected to attend the Northwest Illinois Economic Development Annual Meeting.

Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into executive session at 9:51 AM.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:58 am.

Action resulting from Executive Session – None.

CEO Report – President and CEO Casper provided an update on the Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) Financials and discussed the margins, noting that they continue to be favorable.

Financial Operating Report – Casper provided a summary of the financial operating report for July. Year to date (YTD) revenue is approximately \$38.5 million vs. a budgeted amount of \$36.9 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses were approximately \$31,000 under budget. YTD margins are approximately \$2.9 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$678,028. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory Update

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer provided a broadband update, noting that Jo-Carroll Energy has successfully submitted three grant opportunities. Buros commented that fiber interest continues to increase and acknowledged that material lead times continue to grow. Additionally, Buros provided an update of fiber accounts, which have nearly reached 1800.

Covid Update – Merri Sevey, V.P. of Human Resources, provided an update on Covid statistics, noting that the Pfizer Vaccine has been approved by the FDA.

JCE Website/Member Portal – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services provided an overview of

the JCE website and member portal; highlighting enhanced features to allow for better member support and streamlining the JCE member experience.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – Outside General Counsel, Terry Kurt provided an update on external affairs and legislative issues that are happening on the local and state forefront. In addition, Casper provided an update on the redistricting and mapping in the region.

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Chairman Senn provided an update from the AIEC and asked that the board review items 1-10 from the AIEC Report. Senn also commented that the AIEC approved more scholarships since the fund has been growing. In addition, Director Tindell made a few remarks regarding the Badger Group meeting that he recently attended.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed the latest topics within the natural gas (NG) industry. Carroll provided highlights from the APGA conference, noting that new taskforce groups have been created and that any board member interested in participating in the groups may do so virtually. Casper added that the meeting was very informational and commented on the importance of NG's role within the energy industry. Nineteen states have passed legislation about choice and continuing the use of natural gas. Both the Northern American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Federal Electric Reliability Corporation (FERC) will be coming out soon with a report on the natural gas event that hit the country in mid-February.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley provided a summary of the Dairyland financials and noted that a strategic planning session was held, concentrating on DPC's three-year plan to include more focus on the relationship with the statewide association and the utilization of their legislative aides to better align with DPC's strategic objectives.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the most recent generation numbers. In addition, Director Stanger commented on a recent PPI meeting she attended that focused on safety and reliability.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Jo-Carroll Energy, statewide scholarship applications open

Jo-Carroll Energy will award up to \$25,000 to students from its service territory through its scholarship program. In addition, Illinois electric cooperatives in 2022 will award 14 academic scholarships to high school seniors from across Illinois through a memorial scholarship fund.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarship Program:

- Six Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to current high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Jo-Carroll Energy. Two scholarships will be awarded in both Jo Daviess and Carroll counties and one each in Whiteside and Henry counties.
- Four \$1,000 scholarships (one awarded in each county of the cooperative's service territory) for students who will attend two-year, technical or trade schools.
- Two lineworker scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each.
- Four \$1,500 scholarships (one awarded in each county of the cooperative's service territory) for adult or "non-traditional" students. These scholarships will go to cooperative members who are returning to school or will attend a post-secondary or accredited training program. (This scholarship is not intended for students who have graduated from high school within the past four years.)
- Ten "Director's Scholarships" of \$500 each to be awarded to a student from each of the cooperative's 10 director districts. Current high school seniors, whose parents are members of Jo-Carroll Energy, are eligible for these scholarships. Applicants and at least one of their parents must attend the Annual Meeting of Members (date to be announced) where selections will be made by drawings.

All Jo-Carroll Energy scholarships are funded by unclaimed and donated capital credits. Application deadline for JCE scholarships is March 1, 2022; Director's Scholarship application deadline is May 1. Applications must be submitted online at jocarroll.com.

IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Fourteen \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2021 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

- Eight scholarships awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.
- Four scholarships for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.
- One Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a high school

senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.

- One LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.

Deadline to apply for the IEC scholarship program is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information, go to aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/ or jocarroll.com.

For more information regarding any of the Jo-Carroll or IEC scholarships, contact Peggy Francomb, Jo-Carroll Energy manager of communications and marketing, at pfrancomb@jocarroll.com.



Electric budget billing accounts to recalculate

Jo-Carroll Energy members with budget billing for their electric accounts will have their budget amounts recalculated in November.

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

Be sure to look at your November statement to see if your budget amount has changed. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will appear on your statement in blue indicating the new budget amount.

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 December. Invoice billed members should remember that no messages will print on your bill statement whether or not the budget bill amount changes.

If you would like to know your new budget bill amount, please call our offices between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or email us at info@jocarroll.com. **Francisco Fergoso**

Budget billing can help you manage your energy costs by allowing you to allocate the same amount each month. Monthly utility bills can vary significantly throughout the year due to variations in your usage through heating and cooling seasons.

With JCE's budget billing plan you eliminate the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and use patterns. It is imperative that members on budget billing still watch their monthly use and outstanding balances to ensure a large increase does not occur during a recalculation month.

Levelized billing also available

JCE also offers a levelized billing program. Under this plan, each monthly bill is the rolling average of your electric use for the most recent 12 months, thus eliminating true-up months.

This means you will not pay the exact same amount every month, but it will be close to the same. The amount you owe some months will be more than the average, other months it will be less.

Over the course of the year, you will have paid what you actually owe. Levelized billing does not reduce your bill; it helps you manage your utility payments.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing, your budget bill account or levelized billing, please contact the member services department at 800-858-5522.

You can also find more information about various payment options on our website at jocarroll.com.

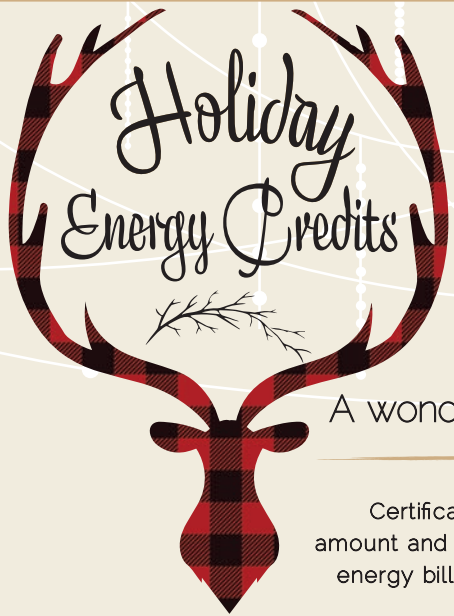
Test for 'interruptible heat members' set for Nov. 17

Dairyland Power has set the 2021 Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts for Wednesday, Nov. 17.

This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function.

During the test, residential interruptible heat load classes will be controlled as shown in the chart.

Time	Control Status
5:00 p.m.	Control start
5:05 p.m.	All loads interrupted (2,2W,4B)
8:30 p.m.	Class 4B loads restored
9:00 p.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads begin diversified restoral
10:00 p.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads fully restored



Warm someone's heart
this holiday season.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY

A wonderful gift for any Jo-Carroll Energy member!

Certificates are available in any amount and are applied to the member's energy bill for the amount purchased.

Ask any of our member service representatives for more information 800.858.5522.

Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds offer help

If you need assistance paying your energy bill this winter, help may be available through Jo-Carroll Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds.

This program works in tandem with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Members must first apply for LIHEAP funds to be considered.

If funds are available, you may receive a grant from the Neighbor to Neighbor funds. To find out if you qualify, contact your respective agency to start the application process:

- Jo Daviess County:
Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA)
815-232-3141
- Carroll and Whiteside counties:
Tri-County Opportunities Council
800-323-5434
- Henry County
Project Now
309-852-4565



(Continued from page 20A)

continue to be governed by their respective governing bodies and should continue to recognize and implement policies to provide the opportunity to their residential and small commercial member-consumers who wish to self-generate electricity and to offer reasonable credits for excess electricity, balanced against the rights of the other non-self-generating member-consumers. Jo-Carroll Energy

will review our policies and should any policy update be needed, do so by March 14, 2022 (180 days after the legislation was signed into law). Jo-Carroll Energy believes we currently provide fair and equitable credits for excess electricity generated. Therefore, no changes are expected.

Illinois Shines Program

The Illinois Power Agency included in a recent statement that they will be releasing more information on processes

and timetables in the weeks and months ahead, with a new draft Revised Long-Term Plan reflecting modified statutory requirements released for public comment no later than Jan. 12, 2022. Through the Illinois Shines Program, Jo-Carroll Energy developed two additional community solar programs that were not cross-subsidized by other members who chose not to participate.

'Watt' do I need to know about electricity and my appliances?

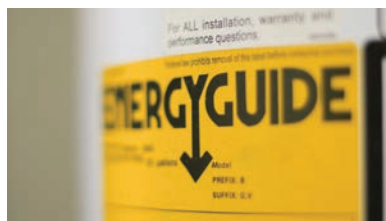
Determining how much electricity your appliances and electronics use can help you understand how much money you spend to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and 1 watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second.

The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while larger devices are measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use.

Here are ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and electronics use.

- **See the data plate.**

Appliances have data plates located on the back or inside



the door that indicate amps, watts and volts are needed to power the appliance.

- **Review the EnergyGuide label.** The EnergyGuide label, a yellow sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and yearly cost to operate the specific model of the appliance you are considering, based on the national average cost of electricity.
- **Use a monitor or meter.** Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts.
- **Install a whole-house system.** Whole-house energy monitoring systems provide more detailed data on your home's energy use. The

features of these systems vary, and the cost and complexity depend on the number of circuits you want to monitor, how detailed the feedback is and the type of features available.

Now that you know how to measure the energy used by your appliances and electronics, visit [EnergyStar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov) to access information that can help with the decision to upgrade to newer, more efficient models. ENERGY STAR provides energy use data on specific products that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating. You can compare this information to your current appliances' energy use to see if an upgrade is worth your while. [EnergyStar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov) also provides tools that allow you to compare different models. Depending on the type of appliance, ENERGY STAR-certified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy than their standard counterparts.

THANK YOU 2000 FIBER INTERNET MEMBERS

Sand Prairie Connects Our 2000th Fiber Internet Member!

We are very excited to announce our 2,000th member, Warren Johnson, has been installed and connected to our amazing fiber internet service! We have remarkable crews that are working day after day to bring fiber to our members. THANK YOU to the line crews, engineers, installers, operations personnel, and broadband technicians here at Sand Prairie. We are proud to serve as your local fiber co-op!



Want to be our 3000th Member?

Check availability, fill out a show of interest or sign-up at:

connectSP.com/iwantfiber



Sand Prairie
A service of Jo-Carroll Energy

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

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS



Donate & receive a FREE light bulb

Donations of nonperishable items accepted at

JO-CARROLL ENERGY OFFICES

ELIZABETH

793 US Rt 20 West

SAVANNA

103 Chicago Avenue

GENESEO

1004 S. Chicago Street

DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT

Albany Food Pantry
East Dubuque Food Pantry
Elizabeth Food Basket
Erie Food Pantry
Geneseo Food Pantry

Hanover Food Bank
Helping Hands Food Pantry
Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food Pantry
Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry
United Churches of Galena

BEGINS : Mon, Nov 8

ENDS : Fri, Dec 17



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

jocarroll.com | 800-858-5522

Holiday giving made easy

with Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections



Fun

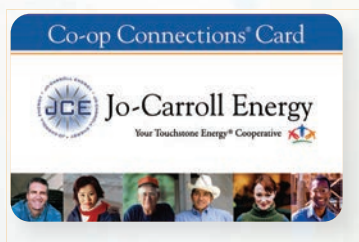
Local Deals

National Deals

Free Member Benefit

Saving While Giving

Cooperative Healthy Savings



For more information about the one card that does it all, log on connections.coop or contact your local Touchstone Energy co-op.

Happy (stress-free) Holidays!

from



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

