



JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Looking ahead to change

As we look back at 2014 and ahead to the new year, the amount of activity at your co-op is amazing. Highlighting the past year were the celebration of our 75th Anniversary, construction of South View Solar Farm and a new method for retiring capital credits.

I hope most of you saw the Capital Credits Retirement credit on your December bill or received your Capital Credits check in the mail. In true cooperative spirit, we changed our method of retirements last year so that more members would receive the benefit of capital credits sooner.

The new year brings more changes, as we will roll out a new bill design and unbundled rate structure in a few short months. In last month's column, I told you the board of directors had approved the new structure and that your monthly bill will have a new look starting in May 2015.

An unbundled rate structure more clearly identifies the specific cost components: generation, transmission and distribution. Currently, some line items in your energy bill are made up of a handful of detailed expenses, or are "bundled" into line items such as "facility charge" or "cost per kWh". An "unbundled" bill breaks these line items into their defined parts.

When we roll out the new bill design in May, you will see these components listed as line items on your energy bill. We think this new system will provide members a better understanding of each of these items and to see more clearly how your energy dollars are spent. This month I'd like to talk about the energy supply portion, focusing on electricity generation.

Jo-Carroll Energy is a distribution cooperative. We're your local, member-owned,

not-for-profit utility that builds and maintains overhead and underground lines and equipment to deliver power. Typically, distribution co-ops do not generate electricity. In many cases, that role lies with generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts).

We currently have three power suppliers. Following the 2007 acquisition of former Alliant Energy territory we have purchased the electricity we deliver to you from Dairyland Power Cooperative, a G&T, as well as investor-owned utility Alliant Energy. After the merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company, we added a third power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc., also a G&T.

The power supply component of your bill reflects the costs we incur from our wholesale power providers to purchase electricity for you. Current bills list energy costs as a cost per kWh. That charge currently includes a portion of our fixed costs as well as actual energy costs and distribution and transmission expenses.

With the new bill design, you'll see this listed as "Energy Cost" and broken down with an Energy Charge, Generation Demand and Transmission Charge. The energy charge consists of the kilowatt-hours of energy used by a member. The generation charge is the kilowatts of capacity required to meet demand requirements. Based on a member's kWh, it can be seen as the long-term investment for the steel-in-the-ground facilities of the power supplier.

We'll continue the discussion next month focusing on the transmission piece.

To help you further understand unbundling and the new bill design we are offering a series of six member meetings throughout our service territory in March. Please watch the February Hi-Lines for dates, times and locations and plan to attend a meeting.

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 and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.



Reserve your place in the sun!

Subscriptions to South View Solar Farm panels now available

Visit www.jocarroll.com for information

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Chris Stadel
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
Treasurer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Russell Holesinger
District 8

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
District 10

Douglas Darby
District 10

Ronald Hallendorff
District 10

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 - 4 p.m.

**Services and
Billing Questions:**

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies
and outages call:**
(800) 927-5254

Resume of Minutes

Open Board Meeting • October 29, 2014

The board met on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda as modified and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Members Comments – Member Turczinski thanked the Board for having an open meeting. He made suggestions regarding the meeting, agenda and board policies.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Senn commented on the rapid state of transformation our cooperative is undergoing, including AMI, Solar, Peaking Unit and unbundling of bills, all while we are struggling with a decreasing population. We are improving communication and engaging with our members; over a million responses were sent to the EPA during the NRECA's "All-of-the-Above" energy campaign.

Dairyland Report – Director Werner, alternate Dairyland Director, reported that, financially, Dairyland had a good September. Director Werner reported issues with coal reserves and the BNSF railroad are continuing. BNSF has stated that more coal trains have been scheduled.

AIEC Report - Director Senn reported on the RS Retirement for the AIEC. He gave the Audit report for the AIEC to CEO Hastings.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided a website, apga.org, which has a knowledge center with a valuable glossary of terms that are used in the gas industry. He reported that there are changes coming with regulations and the cost will be passed on to the consumer.

PPI Report – Director Hallendorff and CEO Hastings reported on the PPI Board Meeting. They reported the new CEO of the Prairie State Campus is Donald Gaston. Director Hallendorff reported on the plant's performance for September and October. He reported that the 2015 PPI Budget was approved.

Monthly Committee Review

a Policy Committee Report – Policy 134 – Workplace Violence was approved without revisions.

CEO's Report - The CEO reported on the following in addition to his written report:

a Financial Operating Report – Hastings reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of \$821,651 in September. The Board accepted the September Financial Operating Report for filing by general consent.

b Power Supply Report – CEO Hastings reported that Dairyland Power has a budget meeting in early December. Alliant Energy will have their projected costs in May, with changes through June.

c CFO Report – CFO Heidenreich reported that budgeting is underway for 2015. She reported that the new auditors will be visiting following the Board Meeting to meet with staff.

d Sr. Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Report – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buros gave an update on the Community Solar Project, the Community Solar Project, the Cooperative's Natural Gas Peaking unit and the gas line extension.

e Culture of Excellence and Communications – Merri Sevey, Vice-President of Human Resources reported on the Member Appreciation Days. She reported on the Member Service Training and upcoming culture training.

f Member Services – Jennifer Skien, Vice-President of Member Services reported on the status of collection for doubtful debts and that the OnBoard App. would be reviewed following the Board Meeting.

g External Affairs Update – Chris Allendorf, Corporate Counsel and John Cox, Board Attorney reported on External Affairs. Allendorf reported on what may happen during the lame-duck session of Congress. He reported on the Manufacturing Day that TCEDA recently held, which was well-attended by area high school students and provided them with career possibilities at local manufacturers. Allendorf said that Lisa McCarthy is currently working with three businesses that are looking to locate in the area. Attorney Cox gave an update on the TCEDA Summit and the TCEDA Budget.

Board Issues

a Board Resolution for 2014 Dairyland Load Forecast – The Board reviewed and approved the Board Resolution for the Dairyland Load Forecast.

b Capital Credit Retirement – CFO Heidenreich reported on the revised capital credit retirement plan. The Board approved a retirement of \$738,000, which will go to 18,276 members.

c 2015 Leadership Forum Attendees – Peggy Francomb will attend the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum and Russ Holesinger will attend the Carroll County 2015 Leadership Forum.

d Voting Credentials II Cooperative Workers Compensation Group – CEO Hastings was chosen as the Voting Representative.

e 2015 Board Meeting Schedule – The Board approved the 2015 Board Meeting Schedule with the exception of February meeting changed to the 26th and December meeting changed to the 3rd.

Reports – Reports were heard on the following meetings/events: Member Appreciation Days, Manufacturing Day and the Jacobs and Bustos events.

Upcoming Meetings – NRECA Course 958.1 on November 5th was discussed.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Petitions now available for 2014 board elections

Nomination petitions are now available for the 2014 Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Director elections.

Four positions will be filled during the election. Districts included are: District 5, now represented by Pat Smith; District 7, now represented by Dave Senn; District 8, now represented by Russell Holesinger; and District 10, now represented by Doug Darby, Ron Hallendorff and Bob Kuhns. Elections will determine one board representative in each of Districts 5, 7 and 8 and two representatives in District 10.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member

residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director or directors, may petition for nomination. Members interested in seeking election to the board may pick up a nomination petition at one of Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or download a petition from the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquarters no later than Feb. 17, 2015.

In order to qualify to have their

names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors, including but not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws. The bylaws are posted on the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com. Anyone without Internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Jo-Carroll Energy

793 U.S. Route 20 West • P.O. Box 390 • Elizabeth, Illinois 61028-0390

Fight the winter chills

By: April Lollar, APR, CCC

Another colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work over time, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open that bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive. There are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

These simple steps can help you manage your use:

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Log on to your Jo-Carroll Energy account to keep up with your use. If we've had a few days of frigid temperatures, see how you can try to save on days that are milder.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

So, when temperatures fall this winter and you hear your weatherman talking about bringing in pets and plants, take the steps above to help manage your use.



Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime.
 - For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
- Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.
- Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.

April Lollar writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Youth to Washington Tour applications due February 27

Two high school students will travel to Washington, D.C. on an all-expense paid tour of the nation's capital with the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June, sponsored by Jo-Carroll Energy and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The 2015 Youth to Washington Tour is open to area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in the current 2014-2015 school year who are sons or daughters of a Jo-Carroll Energy member. Winners will be selected via an application and interview process.

Winners will travel by charter bus to Washington, D.C. June 12-19 with over 60 students from across the state of Illinois.

Youth to Washington is an once-in-a-lifetime chance to bond with fellow students, meet elected officials and experience the Nation's Capital.

The winning students will visit the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Supreme Court, Arlington National Cemetery, and The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum among many

other sites. The chosen students will also take a special twilight riverboat cruise on the Potomac River.

To watch a video about the Youth to Washington tour visit www.youthtour.coop.

Applications can be found on our website at www.jocarroll.com under the Community tab. Applications must be received at the Cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters by February 27, 2015. For further information, contact Elicia Walter, marketing and communications coordinator at 800-858-5522 ext. 1228.



Need money for college?

Scholarships available through the Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarship Program

apply now!

Visit www.jocarroll.com for information

Get involved: Apply for our Member Advisory Council

Jo-Carroll Energy's Member Advisory Council is a valuable link in receiving input from our members.

Jo-Carroll Energy needs members who care about their community and take an interest in their cooperative to serve on the council. Started in late 2012, the council has met during the last two years to learn more about the co-op business model and has provided input on important issues such as electric aggregation, capital credits, our website and bill redesign.

For more information or MAC application, please call 800-858-5522, email MAC@jocarroll.com or visit the Member Involvement page on our website.

Resume of Minutes

Special Board Meeting Minutes Summary • October 31, 2014

The board met on Wednesday, October 31, 2014, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda was approved as modified.

Board Issues

a. Cost of Service Study – Keleher presented a comparison of current rates versus proposed unbundled rates for the board's consideration. He covered the steps that were taken to determine the proposed unbundled rates. The Board approved the proposed

unbundled rates as presented by the Staff and these rates will be implemented in May, 2015.

b. Rate Reduction – The CEO presented where the Cooperative stands with the budget and financials along with some possibilities for a rate reduction. The Board approved a total PCA reduction of \$0.02 kwh. The Board will review again at the December Board Meeting.

c. Freeze Board Per Diem – The Board approved freezing the Board Per Diem at the 2014 rate for 2015.

d. Christmas Donations – Sevey reported on the donations for area food pantries which have been the practice in previous years. It was the consensus of the Board that this item was approved previously in the budget and no action was required.

e. Ratification of Inside Union Contract

– The Board approved the new three year Inside Union Contract.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 P.M.

Ten scholarships available for 2015 building conference

For the third year, Jo-Carroll Energy and the Energy Detective are proud to offer 10 registration scholarships to the 2015 Better Building: Better Business Conference. **Σαράνιουχ ιροφ**

The 2015 Better Building: Better Business Conference is powered by the Energy Center of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Builders Association and will be held in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., March 11-13, 2015.

“The conference provides opportunities to explore the latest cold climate residential building products, technologies, practices and proven strategies with a focus on the national IECC building codes

adopted by Illinois state law,” said John Scott, energy advisor at Jo-Carroll Energy.

Builders, remodelers, architects, building performance consultants, code officials, contractors, home inspectors, and anyone involved in the residential building community are encouraged to attend the conference and apply for one of Jo-Carroll Energy's 10 scholarships.

Jo-Carroll Energy will cover the cost of registration of the core conference (March 12-13, 2015) for the 10 scholarship winners. Attendees are responsible for any pre-conference registration fees, transportation, meals and lodging

they so choose. Those awarded a scholarship must register themselves through an online link provided by the Cooperative. A special room rate will be made available to attendees who register before Feb. 1, 2015.

Scholarship applications are available at several local lumber yards as well as any Jo-Carroll Energy office. You may also contact John Scott at jscott@jocarroll.com or call 800-858-5522, ext. 1339 to request an application.

Applications are due to any Jo-Carroll Energy office by January 22, 2015.

'Climate Change' Rotary Roundtable topic

The topic for this year's Galena Rotary Roundtable will be “Climate Change....The Perfect Storm”.

The 27th annual Community Roundtable sponsored by the Galena Rotary Club, in cooperation with Galena Gazette Publications and the University of Illinois Extension, will be held Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at Ramada Galena.

The program will consist of three sessions. The first session will center on understanding just what is “climate change” and its impact. The

second session will focus on understanding the proposed solutions to climate change while considering the following: Are the proposed standards/regulations/initiatives

- Inadequate to make a difference
- Cost prohibitive to the U.S. economy
- Necessary regardless of the economic costs and potential effectiveness
- Ineffective without global commitment to managing climate change

Session three will be a general discussion on how climate change and the suggested solutions (or lack thereof) will affect the daily lives of those living in the tri-state area.

The event begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Cost for the event is \$25 for pre-registration or \$30 at the door. Pre-registration forms will be available at most Jo Daviess County banks, Galena Gazette and the Galena Territory Property Owners office. Pre-registration forms will also be available on the Galena Rotary website: www.galenarotary.org.

One Way Carpet Cleaning & Upholstery, Geneseo

For almost 11 years, Jason Boone has helped families and businesses extend the life of their furniture, carpets, vehicle upholstery and all kinds of rugs.

Boone worked part time for a carpet cleaner while earning his Master's degree from St. Ambrose University. After graduation he recognized the need for a carpet cleaning service in the Geneseo area. Utilizing his skill and education, Boone chose to build his own business which he named One Way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning.

Almost three years ago, Boone hired Bruce Redding and purchased a second van. Both are professionally certified trained technicians and fully insured.

Using a hot-water extraction process, also known as steam-cleaning, the two technicians ensure carpets receive a deep and lasting clean.

They drive vans to each job site because the technicians bring their own clean water to the home or business and take away the dirty water.

The Bane-Clene® systems they use are quiet, clean and quick. According to Boone, most jobs are finished in two hours. Their soaps are non-sudsy, leave no residue and are safe for families and pets.

"There was a time when you used to never get stains out. Now you can—even red wine stains," stated Boone.

Stain removal, odor removal and control, and carpet protection are services in demand at One Way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning.

If you do not want to move your home or office furniture you can rest assured. Boone and Redding will move your furniture free of charge. It is all a part of their customer service.

When was the last time your carpets were cleaned? Boone recommends having them professionally cleaned once a year or more often if you have indoor pets.



"Most people don't realize we can clean furniture upholstery or vehicles interiors," Boone explained.

Boats, RVs, cars and trucks can easily attract stains on seats and mats; yet, cleaning upholstery can keep a vehicle looking new for many years.

Whatever your cleaning needs, Boone and Redding at One Way Carpet Cleaning & Upholstery are just one call away from your solution.

Jo-Carroll Energy members receive 15 percent off all cleaning services (not valid with other offers) when they mention their Co-op Connections® card. Call One Way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning at 309-944-6217 or 309-507-3334 to request your free estimate. You can also visit them at www.onewaycarpet.com and on Facebook.



**You saved
\$287,226**

as of October, 2014
**on prescriptions with your
Co-op Connections Card!**



**discover how at
www.connections.coop**

Getting ready to harvest the sun...

Construction of South View Solar Farm, Jo-Carroll Energy's community solar project, got underway in late November. The array consists of 460 solar panels with a combined capacity of 126.5 kW (dc). Members who receive their electricity from the co-op still have time to subscribe to the project for capacity credits. Cost is \$890 per panel, and subscribers receive a monthly bill credit for their panels' output.

