

JO-CARROLL

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Rate discussion

I've had a few questions lately about electric rates and thought I'd spend a few minutes discussing the issue. We've just received word that Commonwealth Edison has raised its rates 17% and will be going in for another rate increase early this year (2014).

Jo-Carroll Energy's situation is certainly different than Commonwealth Edison's. While we don't have to go to the Illinois Commerce Commission for a rate increase, our member-elected directors who do set the rates are loathe to increase them!

Due to existing power contracts, Jo-Carroll Energy can't immediately drop one of its power suppliers and choose another supplier for some short-term savings. This also provides rate stability – short-term savings can turn into long-term rate increases!

Having said that, we don't expect any big increases in rates for 2014. The power cost adjustment (PCA) will continue on our bills as we have had some upward price pressure from Interstate Power and Light, our major electric power supplier. This has been offset to a small degree by a modest rate decrease at Dairyland Power Cooperative, another one of Jo-Carroll Energy's electric power suppliers.

No one likes increases in electric rates. That is a major reason why we emphasize conservation and energy efficiency efforts so much – so you can spend less for energy and stretch your energy dollar further.

We recently replaced two appliances at our house, a washer and a dryer. We had used these appliances for many years. The energy savings with the new washer and dryer was dramatic and immediate. The energy savings will pay for the appliances over a fairly short time.

Another member I visited with this week reported that he had replaced all of his indoor lighting with LED lights and also saw immediate energy savings.

As members of a cooperative, we all have a job to do when it comes to efficiency. With the helpful tools and resources from your cooperative, using energy wisely is easier than you think – especially when we work together. After all, using energy responsibly and saving money go hand in hand. The more we work together, the more we save. That's the power of co-op membership.

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.

Jo-Carroll Energy offers a variety of programs and tools to help members save. Our energy experts are ready to work with you.

Our energy advisor can help you with:

- Residential audits and assessments
- Kill-A-Watt Meter checkout
- Energy efficiency loan program
- Small business and agriculture energy audits

Each month, we provide energy efficiency information with the Illinois Country Living magazine and Hi-Lines newsletter, as well as bill inserts, the Questline e-newsletter and updated information on our website.

Please keep a look-out for appliance rebates offered by Jo-Carroll Energy to help save you money!

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

Thomas Zwica
District 10

Douglas Darby
District 10

Ronald Hallendorff
District 10

Office Hours:

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 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

Unclaimed capital credits

Each year when we mail capital credit checks, some are returned as undeliverable. Following is part of a list of names of those who have unclaimed capital credits.

If you find your name on the list, please call 800-858-5522 or email info@jocarroll.com. You may search a complete list on our website at www.jocarroll.com.

RICHARDSON GARY L GRETCHEN	SCALES MOUND IL
POST JIMMIE ELIZABETH	SCALES MOUND IL
THOMSON JEANNE E	SCALES MOUND IL
STUCKWISCH ARNOLD	SCALES MOUND IL
GOVRIK JUDY K	SCALES MOUND IL
SCHOLBROCK KEVIN	SCALES MOUND IL
SCHMIDT LINDA	SCALES MOUND IL
WARE PENNY	SCALES MOUND IL
MCNALLEY JOSEPH	SCALES MOUND IL
SAAR MRS ROBERT	SCALES MOUND IL
O'REILLY JAMES J JOANNE P	SCHAUMBURG IL
SEDLAK JOHN M IRENE	SCHAUMBURG IL
COLGAN JAMES W	SCOTT DEPOT WV
HESS CHARLES W PATRICIA	SCOTTSDALE AZ
MURRAY ROBERT F	SCOTTSDALE AZ
FRAIN MICHAEL	SCOTTSDALE AZ
TOWNSLEY WILLIAM W BEVERLY	SEMINOLE FL
SCHLACHTER AL	SENECA FALLS NY
REINKE MICHAEL	SEWELL NJ
RUSSWOOD OF ILL INC	SHANNON IL
HURT ORVILLE	SHANNON IL
WILLIS NELLIE M HAROLD	SHERIDAN WY
TROXEL EARL JUDY	SHULLSBURG WI
TIMPE MARY ELLEN ROGER	SHULLSBURG WI
SCHUBERT R J GRASS	SILVER SPRINGS FL
LAW DR MARVIN	SILVER SPRINGS MD
SCHMIDT ROBERT E JANY	SKOKIE IL
CIEZKI ROBERT	SKOKIE IL
COLSON JOSEPH S ROSEMARY E	SMYRNA GA
WINCH ALFRED JOYCE	SOLDONTA AK
PAVLUK EDWARD LEOLA	SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS IL
PHILIPPS VINCENT J MARY	SPRING HILL FL
MARKLE TERRY	SPRINGVILLE IA
CROWN RANCH	ST PETERSBURG FL
PRESTON PHYLLIS	STERLING IL
NEWCOMER MAURICE	STERLING IL
BLUM DENNIS M	STERLING IL
NORMAN MURIEL	STOCKTON IL
SWEITZER LARRY	STOCKTON IL
JAMES DELOSS T	STOCKTON IL
FROULA CHARLES	STOCKTON IL
REED JAMES KAY	STOCKTON IL
VANDERHEYDEN THOMAS L	STOCKTON IL
TORMOHLN DAVID J	STOCKTON IL
WILEY ED OPAL	STOCKTON IL
CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS	STOCKTON IL
ROTH WALTER	STOCKTON IL
PRUITT HOLLIS CHRIS	STOCKTON IL
GOSS WILLIAM S	STOCKTON IL
EDMUND FRANKLIN G MARLENE D	STOCKTON IL
BLACKHAWK PCA	STOCKTON IL
JONES RANDY	STOCKTON IL
1ST NATIONAL BANK OF STOCKTO	STOCKTON IL
HANCOCK DENNIS	STOCKTON IL
NOWAK SHERRY	STOCKTON IL
DITTMAR CRAIG	STOCKTON IL
FRY DUANE A	STOCKTON IL

DEVINEY QUENTIN	STONY POINT NY
SIEMON EDWARD NANCY	STREAMWOOD IL
SPERANZA BERNARD E	STREATOR IL
SMITH TONY	SUGAR GROVE IL
MADONNA R JOSEPH JOANNE	SUMMIT ARGO IL
LARSON VINCENT	SWITA CITY IN
SHEARER JOHN R	SYCAMORE IL
SHEARER ROBERT	SYCAMORE IL
LUBBEN VIRGINIA APPEL	TAYLOR RIDGE IL
KNUTH WILLIAM R SUSAN F	THOMSON IL
CARLSON PATRICIA	THOMSON IL
BARRETTE RON TERESA	THOMSON IL
VEGTER JAY L LINDA	THOMSON IL
WURSTER WILLIAM	THOMSON IL
STOCKS FRED	THOMSON IL
STROZEWSKI DAVID A KAREN	THOUSAND OAKS CA
POWERS JAMES E JR LILLY M	TINLEY PARK IL
MALLY FRANK J	TROY IL
WERNER LUCELLA	TUCSON AZ
BOWEN JEANETTE	TUCSON AZ
ANHALT LAWRENCE A SHIRLEY	TWO RIVERS WI
DEACON RON	UVALDE TX
HAYWARD EDNA F	VENICE FL
RYERSON WILLIAM	VILLA PARK IL
WEEKLEY TED H	VIROQUA WI
LUDWICK LEIGH W	WALDORF MD
BRIONES NANCY	WALNUT CA
LAREY WELDON ESTATE	WARREN IL
OLSON MCKEE MRS PEARL	WARREN IL
WALKER ARTHUR D	WARREN IL
CARLSON D ARLYN MARCIA	WARREN IL
BURMEISTER JERRY	WARREN IL
CURRAN JAMES R ELLEN	WARREN IL
MIKOS JAMES A	WARREN IL
BONJOUR WILBUR	WARREN IL
RUSSELL STEPHEN J	WARREN NJ
JONES RAYMOND F BELLE C	WASHINGTON IL
CASTELLS MIKE	WATERLOO IA
EVANS LINDA	WATERLOO IA
DOWNING CONSUL & MGT CORP	WAUKEE IA
HOMA MARY	WAYNE IL
WURSTER CLARENCE DELLIA	WEST BEND WI
HOLLESEN FRANK	WEST DUNDEE IL
CAREY CAROLYN E LARRY E	WHEATON IL
ANDERSON LEROY W RUTH	WHEATON IL
STOB RONALD OLIVIA	WHEATON IL
BAKER ROBERT M SALLIE	WHEATON IL
BARTKOWSKI RONALD N	WHEATON IL
PEEK RONALD D	WHEATRIDGE CO
KEMLER ROBERT L DARLA	WILDWOOD FL
LANCELOT T R	WILMETTE IL
MCCARTHY DENNIS	WILMETTE IL
GOLDBERG KATHY A	WINNETKA IL
BROWN ERNEST	WINSLOW IL
CLAUSON BOYER O	WINTER HAVEN FL
MURPHY DANIEL J	WOOD DALE IL
SCHWEIHS THOMAS	WOODDALE IL

Still time to file nomination petitions

Jo-Carroll Energy members interested in running for one of three seats up for election on the cooperative's board of directors have until Feb. 4 to file petitions for nomination.

Board directors whose terms are up for election include: Marcia Stanger, District 3, of Apple River; Thomas Lundy, District 6, of Savanna; and Larry Carroll, District 9, of Thomson.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director, may file for nomination. Petition forms can be obtained from Jo-Carroll Energy's offices in Elizabeth or Savanna or online at www.jocarroll.com. Candidates must obtain at least 25 signatures of cooperative members from the same district in which they live.

Completed petitions must be submitted to the cooperative by Feb. 4. In order to qualify to have their names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the cooperative's attorney to assure that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors including time demands, education expectations and fiduciary responsibilities.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2014 Annual Meeting book (expected to mail in March) and the April 2014 Hi-Lines.

One member, one vote

If more than one candidate files for election in a district, ballots will be mailed to each member resid-

ing in that district from which the director is to be elected.

Members may vote for one director for the district in which they reside or in which the member is entitled to vote. If a member prefers to vote in person instead of using the mail ballot, he or she may cast their vote at the cooperative office.

All balloting concludes on April 4, the day prior to the annual meeting. The ballots are counted by the Credentials and Election Committee. Results of the election are reported at the 75th Annual Meeting on April 5 at the Chadwick/Milledgeville school in Chadwick.

If only one candidate files in a district, election for that district is by acclamation at the annual meeting and ballots are not mailed.

Forum for cooperative board chairs held at the AIEC

Cooperative leaders from various Illinois electric, telephone and agricultural cooperatives attended the Cooperative Board Chairmen's Roundtable sponsored by the Mid America Cooperative Council, Inc., Indianapolis, and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, in Springfield on Dec. 12 and 13.

The roundtable included sessions and guidance from Dr. Greg McKee, chairman of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., Dr. Megan Gerhardt, associate professor of management in the Farmer School of Business at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, Duane Noland, president/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, and Dan Kelley, owner of Kelley Farms, and chairman of GROWMARK, Inc.



The speakers provided tools to help board chairs guide their boards and cooperatives' management to make decisions that best serve their members' needs, while navigating through a variety of business risks and governance challenges.

Among the attendees was David Senn, chairman of the Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. board of directors, Elizabeth. Shown from left are Senn, Rod Kelsay, executive director of Mid America Cooperative Council and Gerhardt.

2014 energy efficiency incentives are here!

Being energy efficient puts dollars in your pocket by lowering your energy bill and it also qualifies you for additional dollars through our incentive program.

Our 2014 Energy Efficiency incentives offer savings for both our electric and natural gas members. Eligible electric members can qualify for rebates on: electric clothes washers, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, freezer recycling, refrigerator recycling, window air conditioner recycling and LED light fixtures. Rebates are also available to our electric members for geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps and minisplit and central air conditioning and ductless minisplit. Natural gas members can apply for rebates on furnaces or boilers as well as HVAC, natural gas water heaters, stoves and dryers. Additional natural gas incentives are available for fuel switching.

To qualify for one of our incentives in 2014:

- Purchase and install a qualified energy efficient product in 2014.
- Submit required documentation as soon as possible as funds are limited. Incentives are in place through Dec. 31, 2014 or until funds are depleted.
- Submit all documentation no later than six months after purchase or installation and no later than Jan. 2, 2015. (Those who receive our Pilot Light natural gas newsletter should note the updated deadlines.)

Incentive forms and complete information are available at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or by visiting www.jocarroll.com.

Ugly Fridge contest winners will save with newer model

Doss Shultis and girlfriend Christina Myers of Woodbine entered their Ugly Fridge in Jo-Carroll Energy's first ever Ugly Fridge Contest the day before the deadline.

While paying their bill at the Elizabeth office, the couple noticed the old fridge on the cooperative's lawn. Myers picked up a flyer, and realized they only had a few days left to enter the contest. They returned home, got creative and submitted their entry just in time.

Shultis has been a member for five years, but the refrigerator in the home was much older. Judging by the numerous racing stickers and grease stains, this refrigerator had seen better days.

"[Christina] hated my refrigerator," Shultis explained, "so we entered the contest."

"It was Doss's idea that I be in the photo," Christina added. She had faith that this fridge was the ugliest, "I kept telling him we were going to win."

The battle was close until the last few days of member voting when Shultis' refrigerator took a soaring lead, and, in the end, won with 279 votes and 59 percent of the total votes cast. In second place were Richard and Nora Taets of Geneseo, whose entry received 107 votes.

Shultis used a message on Facebook to spread the word of the contest and request votes. They also used a more traditional method: "We called everyone."

As winners of Jo-Carroll Energy's Ugly Fridge Contest, Shultis and Myers were able to purchase a new, stainless steel 18.3 cubic foot top freezer/refrigerator, Energy Star® Frigidaire. It has a simple design, and fits in their space. Most importantly, it is more efficient.

Before they recycled their old refrigerator (a 2004 18.87 cubic foot



▲ Doss Shultis and girlfriend Christina Myers stand beside their new, efficient refrigerator won in Jo-Carroll Energy's Ugly Fridge Contest.

top freezer Kenmore), the couple tested its energy consumption using a Kill-A-Watt meter. Based on the readings, they will see an estimated 26.8 percent reduction in energy consumption.

The top six entries in Jo-Carroll Energy's Ugly Fridge Contest received a certificate for a free home energy audit, a value of \$300, from The Energy Detective, a service of Jo-Carroll Energy.



To test your home appliances, check out a Kill-A-Watt meter for free from any Jo-Carroll Energy office or your local library.

For more information on how you can save energy in your home today and in the future, please visit www.TogetherWeSave.com or call 800-858-5522 and ask for The Energy Detective.

Service anniversaries

Each year, Jo-Carroll Energy recognizes employees for years of service (in increments of five years). In 2013, the cooperative established a program to support employees in their charitable giving by providing the option for donations based on years of service on the employee's behalf to a community, charitable or nonprofit organization of their choice.

Twenty-two employees were recognized for years of service to Jo-Carroll Energy in December 2013. All 22 employees chose to donate their service awards to local community, charitable and nonprofit organizations. Representing a combined 215 years of service, contributions totaling \$1,250 were made to local organizations.



▲ The employees recognized are pictured with Michael Hastings, president and CEO, and David Senn, board chairman. Pictured are, front (from left): Hastings, Bob Houzenga (5), Robyn Jackson (5), Cindy Maeder (5), Beth Heim (5), Dan Walker (30), Justin Albers (5), Kevin Reusch (5), Kyle Buros (10) and Rick Tippett (35); back row (from left): Holly Haring (5), Cindy Price (5), Nancy Nigh (5), Peggy Francomb (5), Wendy Meyer (5), Mike Kussmaul (5), Bob Pelelo (10) and Pat Keleher (10). Not pictured are Pat Anderson (5) and Jim Wayne (30).

Youth to Washington Tour applications available

Two high school students will travel to Washington D.C. on an all-expense paid tour of the Capital with the annual Youth Tour in June, sponsored by Jo-Carroll Energy.

The 2014 Youth to Washington Contest is open to all area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Wanda Luebke
Winners will travel by charter bus to Washington, D.C. June 13-20 with over 60 other students from across the state of Illinois. Students will create lasting memories and friendships during the weeklong tour.

The Illinois Youth Tour has taken students to Washington, D.C. for 55 years. On the tour students learn about cooperatives, American history and U.S. government.

They'll visit the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, Arlington National Cemetery,



the Holocaust Museum among many other sites. They also take a special twilight riverboat cruise on the Potomac. To watch a video about the Youth to Washington tour, visit www.youthtour.coop.

Students who apply must be sons or daughters of Jo-Carroll Energy members. Winners will be selected via an application and interview process.

Applications can be found on our website at www.jocarroll.com. Applications must be received by March 7, 2014.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at www.energysaver.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



NEW: Cashback Mall pays Jo-Carroll Energy members to shop

A new benefit from your Co-op Connections Card gives Jo-Carroll Energy members cash back when online purchases are made from more than 5,000 of your favorite stores.

To start earning your cash back visit www.jocarroll.com and go to the Co-op Connections page under the Member Services tab. Click the "Cashback Mall" icon and your journey of saving has just begun.

By clicking the "Download Now" button and following the instructions, a free shopping assistant toolbar will appear at the top of your internet browser. This tool bar will

keep track of the cash back you have earned. As you make online purchases at Best Buy, Walmart, Target, the Apple Store and other big name retailers, watch the money in your account pile up.

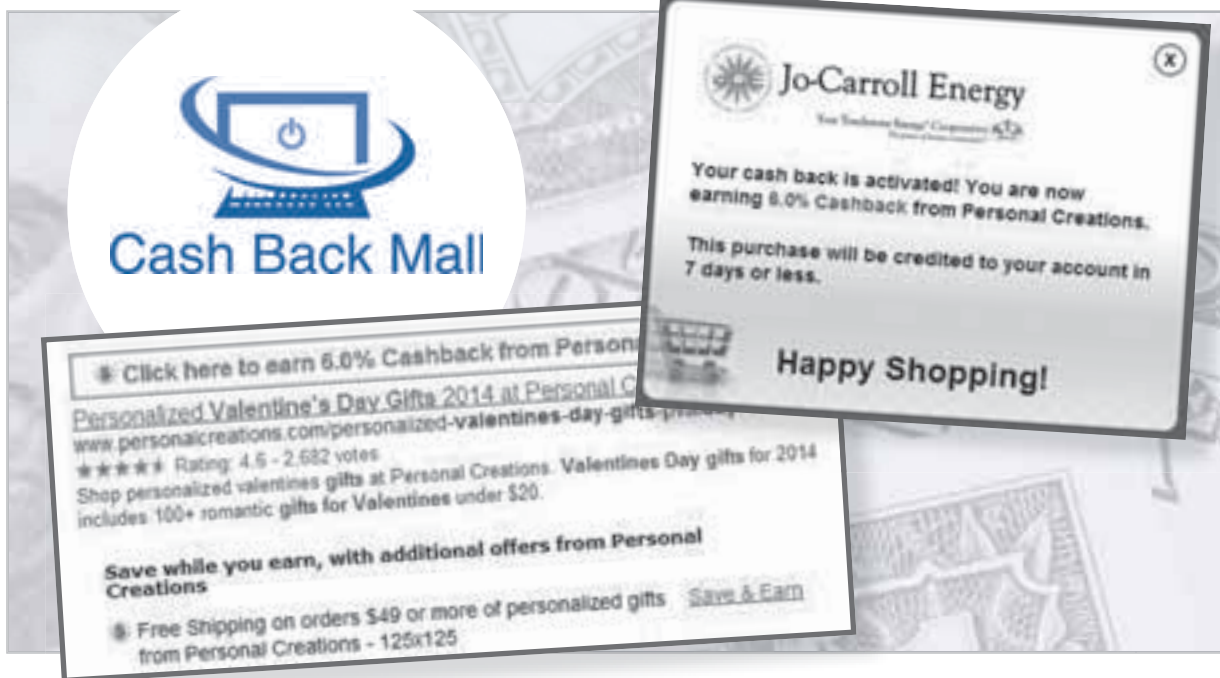
Earning cashback takes little effort as the toolbar on your browser remembers your account and notifies you of websites offering cashback. Search for a product on Google, Bing and Yahoo and the toolbar helps you find cashback in the search results.

When setting up your account you choose how you would like to receive your cash back, whether it is

directly deposited into your account or a printed check, mailed to your address. You can also decide at what dollar amount you would like to receive your cash, \$15, \$25, \$50.

Whether you are buying gifts for loved ones, booking a trip or treating yourself, Cash Back Mall can put money back in your pocket. It's just another member benefit brought to you by Jo-Carroll Energy.

**Some restrictions do apply when earning cashback via the Cashback Mall. Review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) before making any purchases and call 800-858-5522 ext. 1228 or 855-375-1053 with any questions.*



SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE!

Jo-Carroll Energy 75th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 5

Chadwick/Milledgeville School, Chadwick

A special 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held June 21 in Elizabeth!

Watch for details on both these events

New Bulb on the Block: Meet LED Lucy

There's a new lighting mascot in town. CFL Charlie, a cartoon mascot for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, the brand "ID" of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, helps families become "Super Savers" by switching to energy efficient lightbulbs. In 2013 he was joined by LED Lucy, a dazzling, spunky mascot lighting the way for even brighter bulb savings.

Lighting standards started shifting away from traditional lightbulbs in 2012. CFL Charlie and LED Lucy want to make sure Jo-Carroll Energy members know about all lighting options.

"I'm older than I look," LED Lucy confides. The mascot's light-emitting diodes beam. "The first LED was created in 1927. Since then we've added stylish colors, and costs dropped. I love bargains, and LED prices get lower every year!"

The mascots share a few pointers on their energy efficiency namesakes.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

CFL Charlie—and other bulbs like him—are the most common and economical efficient lightbulbs on the market. The swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some consumers haven't warmed to the design.

"Not everyone likes to see my swirls," explains Charlie. "That's fine by me—everyone has a different sense of style. Several of my friends are designed to look just like a traditional lightbulb."

CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and pay for themselves in 9 months, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Light emitting diodes (LEDs)

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used for years in cell phones and other electronics. Most diodes are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser. By banding several small diodes together, a bright and dependable light emerges. As their popularity grows, some companies are making light with a single, bright LED chip. New ways to build LEDs will help drive down costs.

"It's going to be fun to watch LED Lucy gain fans," laughs Charlie. "She uses a little less energy

than me, and lasts 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs."

Since lighting adds up to 10 percent of a home's electric bill, every bulb counts. To help children learn more about lighting, visit www.kid-energyzone.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, U.S. Department of Energy



Board leadership program



Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors Chairman David Senn congratulates Director Russell Holesinger (District 8) for receiving his Board Leadership Program certificate. The program offers advanced courses for cooperative directors and can be earned after completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and completing 10 credits.

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUCLEAR POWER NATURAL GAS CLEAN COAL

America needs an **ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY** to keep electric bills affordable

**URGE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

ACTION.COOP

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

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY WAKE YOU UP.



POUND OF COFFEE
 1936..... 14.5¢
 2013..... \$7.43
INCREASE..... 51X

ELECTRICITY
 1936..... 5¢
 2013..... 11¢
INCREASE..... 2X
BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR

We know how you like your electricity...affordable. And for the past 75 years, we've helped to keep it that way. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.



Jo-Carroll Energy
 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM