

JO-CARROLL

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by David Senn

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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.

To the members of Jo-Carroll Energy:

Earlier this year, Michael Hastings announced his resignation as president and CEO of Jo-Carroll Energy and had accepted the CEO position at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative in Virginia.

The board of directors wishes Michael well in his new endeavor. We appreciate his time and effort, and thank him for his 11 years of leadership at Jo-Carroll Energy.

As we go forward, the board has begun a search for a new president and chief executive officer. We are utilizing an outside search firm, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Executive Search service.

While we conduct the search, the board is bringing on an interim president and CEO, Chris Christman, in early August.

Chris is the retired president/CEO of Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Mattoon. He began his career as an apprentice lineman at Shelby Electric Cooperative in Shelbyville in 1975. He started at Coles-Moultrie as a journeyman lineman in 1979. He later became a staking engineer, and in 1988 was promoted to director of operations. He became the president/CEO of the cooperative in 1999.

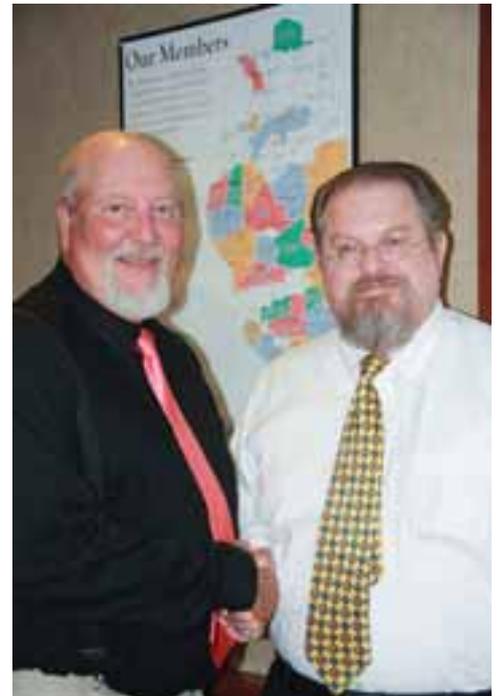
The board feels it has brought in someone who has experience in the cooperative world, but more specifically in the state of Illinois, in order to provide stability during this time of change.

The board of directors will continue to work with NRECA Executive Search to find the best candidate for our next president and CEO. We are looking for an individual who can continue to lead us through times of regulatory challenges and changing

technologies in the utility industry - someone to guide us through rough waters while looking out for the members.

This will not be a short process, because we want to ensure we have chosen the best candidate for the benefit of the members. The board appreciates your support and understanding during this time of transition.

Thank you,
David Senn
Chairman, Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors



Dave Senn, chairman of the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors thanks Michael Hastings for his 11 years of service to the cooperative.

Resume of Minutes

May 26, 2016

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
Treasurer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Bret Jones
District 4

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
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 to 4 p.m.

**Services and
Billing Questions:**

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies
and outages call:**
(800) 858-5522

The board met on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Senn thanked all of the Directors and staff that helped make the Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting a success. Senn reported that he spoke with many members and they were pleased with the new meeting format and there were a lot of happy members who enjoyed the evening. Senn also reported on the work of the CEO Search Committee.

Presentations – None

Dairyland Report – Director Stadel reported on the recent joint Dairyland Managers Association and Dairyland Board Meeting he attended. Topics of discussion included capital expenditure projects and possible short-term rate increases.

AIEC Report – Director Senn reported that a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017, resulted in a dues increase of 1.9%. Senn also provided the board with a report from Illinois ACRE. Senn noted the importance of the NRECA's International Program and its current project to electrify rural villages in Bolivia, which is a project in which Jo-Carroll Energy personnel are involved.

APGA Report – Directors Carroll and Mattingley provided a report on the APGA's Government Relations Conference in Washington, D.C. in May. In addition to meeting with legislative staff, the main issues at the conference were a proposed gas furnace efficiency rule, increased regulation, and direct use of natural gas. Director Mattingley also provided the board with an update on a proposed resolution through the NRECA in support of the APGA's efforts to pass legislation allowing FERC to retroactively collect overpayment by ratepayers to pipeline utilities.

PPI Report – Director Hallendorff reported on the generation numbers for the Prairie State Generating Campus in May.

Monthly Committee Review

(a) Policy Report – Policy 102 – Director Search and Selection for Vacancies. Approved with no changes.

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

(a) Financial Operating Report – CEO Hastings reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of approximately \$30,968 in April, compared to a budgeted amount of \$482,315, which was due to an increase in power costs above budgeted amounts. The Board accepted the April Financial Operating Report for filing with the auditor by general consent.

(b) Power Supply Report – CEO Hastings reported that Alliant Energy is setting up meetings with the Badger Group to discuss aspects of rates.

(c) CFO Report – CFO Heidenreich discussed increased rates from Alliant Energy that will take effect in July.

(d) Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Report – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buros reported on the addition of the Jo-Carroll Energy building. August 1 is the scheduled final completion date of the project. Buros discussed the status of the fiber pilot projects along with the discussion about formulating a renewables plan for the Cooperative.

(e) Culture of Excellence and Communications – Merri Sevey, Vice-President of Human Resources announced the hiring of 1,000 hour workers. Sevey discussed the Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting, noting that the members were very pleased and preferred the new format of the 2016 Annual Meeting over previous years. Sevey informed the board that the Member Appreciation Days, to be held at the Elizabeth, Savanna, and Geneseo office locations will occur in June and July rather than in October. A blood drive will also be held at each location.

(f) Member Services – Jennifer Skien, Vice-President of Member Services reported on the pre-paid metering program including the next steps towards rolling-out the program for members, which includes staff training and review of automation and integration.

(g) External Affairs Update – Chris Allendorff, Vice President of External Relations and General Counsel reported that the Illinois budget impasse may possibly continue through the 2017 budget process, as well as the state's backlog of unpaid bills. Allendorff discussed the D.C. Circuit's decision to hear oral arguments relating to litigation challenging the Clean Power Plan en banc. Allendorff provided updates on the activities of TCEDA. He concluded with reports of meetings with legislative staff during the NRECA's Legislative Conference in early May.

Board Issues

(a) Discounted Estate Retirements Approval – CFO Heidenreich presented the current discounted estate capital credit retirements for the board's consideration. The discounted estate retirements were approved as presented.

(b) CFC Integrity Fund Contribution – A

Continued on 16c ►

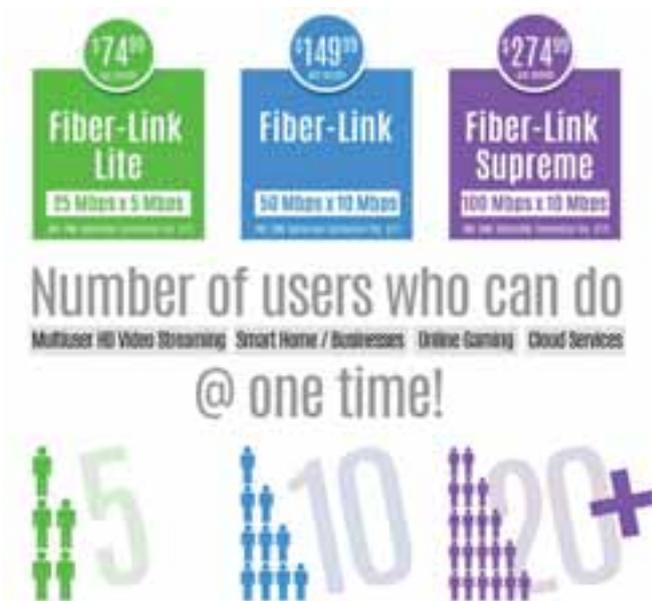
Sand Prairie announces fiber packages for Galena pilot area

Sand Prairie, the broadband division of Jo-Carroll Energy, has announced details for the Galena fiber-to-the-premise pilot project, as well as information on its fiber internet service offerings.

Residents and businesses in the Galena pilot project area are now able to sign up for service, which is planned to begin in the Galena pilot area later this year. This includes the immediate downtown Galena business district as well as apartments and residences along portions of Commerce, Water and Bench streets between U.S. 20 and Meeker Street. A map of the Galena pilot area can be found online at jocarroll.com/fiber.

Jo-Carroll Energy and Sand Prairie members in the Galena pilot area will soon receive subscription information. An online form will be available also.

Sand Prairie will offer three fiber packages initially: Fiber-Link Lite, Fiber-Link and Fiber-Link Supreme. Package prices begin at \$74.99.



Timeline for construction of the FTTP pilot project was adjusted due to the availability of materials. Construction of the fiber system in the Galena pilot area is now expected to begin in September, with installations beginning in November. The Galena pilot is expected to be complete by Dec. 6.

Work on the previously announced Savanna pilot is deferred until 2017.

Members who are not in the pilot area, may express interest through an online form to be available soon. Visit my.connectsp.com for updates or for information about other Sand Prairie services.

Minutes continued from 16b

contribution to the CFC Integrity fund was approved as presented.

- (c) **NRECA Course 963.1** – The attendees for the NRECA Course 963.1 were selected.
- (d) **AIEC's Annual Meeting** – The Attendees were selected for the AIEC Annual Meeting.
- (e) **AIEC Voting Delegate/Alternate** – The AIEC Voting Delegate and Alternate were selected. Director Stanger was chosen as the delegate and Director Hallendorff as the alternate.
- (f) **Rate Policy 730** – Revisions to Rate Policy 730, Miscellaneous Charges, regarding repeated credit card payment denials, was approved as presented.

(g) CoBank Matching Grants –

CoBank matching grants request was approved as presented.

(h) Dairyland Power Director/

Alternate – The Dairyland Power Director and Alternate were selected by secret ballot. Director Mattingley was chosen as the Director representative and Director Jones was chosen as the alternate

(i) Approval of a New Loan with CFC

– A new loan facility with CFC was approved as presented.

Executive Session

Executive Session was held to discuss pending and possible litigation, other legal matters, and employment matters.

Reports

Reports were heard on: NRECA Legislative Conference, APGA Government Relations Conference, and the Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

CFC Forum, Dairyland 75th Annual Meeting, PPI Committee Meeting, PPI Annual Meeting, AIEC Annual Meeting and the Jo-Carroll Energy Board Meeting.

Other Business- None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:09 PM.

Two students represent Jo-Carroll Energy on annual Youth Tour

Devin Koester of Elizabeth and Jordan McLane of Elizabeth represented Jo-Carroll Energy in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 10-17. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with **Claire Russ** Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and were among 64 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,691 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors in high schools that are within the service area of Jo-Carroll Energy are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about the “Youth to Washington” Tour go to www.youth-tour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.





Co-op celebrates Member Appreciation Days

Thank you to all our members who turned out for our annual Member Appreciation Days! Approximately 800 members

visited one of three events held in Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo where board members and employees served pork chop sandwiches, hot

dogs, chips and more.

Members were able to try their hand at games for the opportunity to win bill credits and other prizes.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Source: energy.gov

Jo-Carroll Energy warns of possible scams targeting its members

Jo-Carroll Energy is warning its members and the general public to be aware of apparent scammers who are calling members and requesting payment.

Earlier this summer, the cooperative received information from members indicating the possibility of more than one scam circulating. One seemed to target businesses, particularly in Carroll County, while the other was reported by residential members of the cooperative.

Multiple businesses in Carroll County alerted the cooperative to a scam telephone call they had received from an 800 number.

“The call they received was from a person claiming to represent Jo-Carroll Energy, that we had switched companies, had not received a payment and that a tech was en route to disconnect if they did not pay immediately,” said Jennifer Skien, vice president of member services. The caller then instructed the member to purchase prepaid credit cards to make a

payment.

In another instance, a member received a call with “Jo-Carroll” caller ID that was selling gift cards. The member was told he just needed to provide his credit card number and that his account would only be charged a small amount.

The calls were reported to authorities.

Skien advises that anyone who receives a suspicious call should exercise caution.

“If you receive a suspicious call about your utility bill or account, get the caller’s number and then hang up and call the police and Jo-Carroll Energy,” Skien said. “Never give your account number, credit card number, bank information or other personal information over the phone without verifying the call.”

“Please don’t assume you can trust caller ID as to where a caller is located,” Skien added. “If you are ever contacted by phone about an account and have any concern about the validity of the call, don’t hesitate to tell the caller you prefer

to call them back.”

If there’s any question about a phone call from someone claiming to be with the utility, she offers these tips:

- Get the caller’s name.
- Get the phone number off caller ID.
- Call the police and Jo-Carroll Energy.
- Never give your account number, credit card number, bank information or other personal information over the phone without verifying the call.

“By calling the cooperative to report a suspicious call, members can talk to a member service representative who can confirm their bill and let them know if there are any problems with their account,” Skien added.

If a Jo-Carroll Energy account goes unpaid, the cooperative sends a delinquent notice in the mail. A courtesy call may also be made.

Save with the Co-op Connections Card

Summer will soon be gone, but that doesn’t mean the fun has to end! Did you know Jo-Carroll Energy has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?

The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at over 3,000 leading online retailers.

Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from tens-of-thousands of retailers because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn’t just help you save at big box stores and chains. The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, it was created specifically to help businesses on our nation’s main streets! And the program consistently adds new retailers to help improve our members’ experience.

One of the most popular features in the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don’t have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more

than 60,000 pharmacies across the country.

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you are taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So don’t let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Plan a trip for the family, get fit with a discounted gym membership or take advantage of other deals available to you. It really is the one card that does it all!

You can learn more about the discounts we offer by visiting jocarroll.com or www.connections.coop or calling our offices at 800-858-5522.



Use caution near co-op equipment

By Abby Berry

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Jo-Carroll Energy reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call 800-858-5522 or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are

unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at Jo-Carroll Energy, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit jocarroll.com for more electrical safety tips.

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

CHOOSE THE RIGHT BULB FOR THE RIGHT JOB

There are three primary types of lighting: ambient (general lighting), task lighting and accent lighting. As lighting technologies continue to advance, consumers should be open to trying new shapes and types of bulbs. The check marks below indicate appropriate locations for different types of bulbs on the market. Happy shopping!

BEST BETS FOR HOME LIGHTING

Common Bulb Types	Ambient Lighting			Accent Lighting			Task Lighting
	Pendant Fixture	Ceiling Fixture	Recessed Cans	Ceiling Fan	Wall Sconce	Spot Light	Table or Floor Lamp
 Spiral	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
 Globe	✓				✓		
 A-Shape	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
 Candle	✓	✓		✓	✓		
 Reflector	✓		✓			✓	

Source: energy.gov

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John Scott, our energy advisor, can meet with you on your schedule and offer suggestions to help you make sound, energy efficient business decisions.

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- Mid-sized Energy Audit – Best for restaurants, small commercial and small ag services. Owner pays \$350 of \$1,400 value.
- Commercial/Large scale Energy Audit – Customizable for your business. Owner pays \$500 of \$2,000 value.



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*Special pricing at 25% of the audit cost made possible by a REAP grant through the USDA. Limited time offer.

