

JO-CARROLL

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



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

Your best resource for saving energy and money

One of the things I love most about the ever-changing world of electronics is the fact that so many different devices have entered our homes and businesses in a useful way. I get excited when I hear that the latest gadget can save you, our member-owners, money on home energy costs.

Take, for example, smart lighting systems. This energy efficient technology is fun and easy-to-use, and you can control many systems through the convenience of a smart phone app. The bulbs used with smart lighting systems typically use less energy than standard incandescent bulbs, and since the system can be controlled through your phone or tablet, you can turn on or off your lights from anywhere.

Another device that can help you manage your energy use is a smart thermostat. Many contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet, helping you keep your home smart and energy efficient, or program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many smart thermostats can learn your heating and cooling behavior and auto-schedule based on your preferences.

Smart locks allow you to enter your home with ease. Some allow you to open your doors with your cell phone and some let you see who is coming and going while you are out of the house.

With an internet-connected smart hub, you can control all your smart devices from one app. The hub acts as a middle man that facilitates communications between all your smart home devices.

As more of these new gadgets, apps and monitoring systems become available, they will require a more robust internet connection.

Access to broadband is critical to maintaining quality of life in our rural areas. In June, Chris Allendorf, our vice president of external relations and general counsel, testified on the importance of rural broadband before a House subcommittee (see page 18C). We're working closely with our statewide and national associations to spur broadband development.

At our annual meeting, one member asked, "Does Jo-Carroll have any plans to expand fiber?" referring to our pilot project in Galena. We are committed to bringing higher speed internet to our area. As we wrap up the pilot and review the results, we're first considering where we can leverage our existing fiber network, extend fiber for the cooperative's own operational uses and ultimately to the members we serve. While fiber isn't currently available throughout the service territory, you can still let us know you want fiber by completing the interest form on our Sand Prairie internet website, connectSP.com. Doing so will help us plan for the future.

In the meantime, while app and internet technology continue to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money is Jo-Carroll Energy. Our energy experts are trained to answer your questions and provide helpful information on energy efficiency. Energy advisor John Scott can conduct home energy audits and assessments, provide recommendations for efficiency projects and connect you with energy efficiency incentives.

If you have questions about energy efficiency, smart home technology or broadband internet, please call us at 800-858-5522. We're here to help.

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.

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

Resume of Minutes

May 31, 2017

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

Dan Tindell
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 Wednesday May 31, 2017, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda, as amended, and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Appointment of Dan Tindell – Upon recommendation from the Executive Committee, a motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to appoint Dan Tindell to fill the Director Vacancy for District 4.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Senn thanked the staff and board for a successful annual meeting.

Dairyland Report – Director Mattingley discussed the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation pertaining to Class A Members and Class B Members serving on the Dairyland Board of Directors. Mattingley also discussed Dairyland's growth and diversity in their energy portfolio and noted we would be seeing more ideas regarding strategic planning and renewables.

AIEC Report – Chairman Senn reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) meeting he recently attended and discussed the importance for reliable internet service in rural areas. Senn reviewed ongoing discussions with the Attorney General regarding prepaid metering.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA) as well as board and committee meetings and the Government Relations Conference he recently attended in Washington, D.C. During his visit to the capital, Carroll had a chance to meet with Legislators on topics that impact the APGA as well as other cooperatives.

PPI Report – Director Hallendorff reported on Prairie Power Inc. (PPI's) most recent generation figures and provided operational highlights from Prairie State Units 1 and 2, as well as the Alsey generation site, which Hallendorff recently toured with the PPI Board of Directors.

Monthly Committee Review

a. Policy 108.2- Policy 108.2 was approved as is.

Executive Committee – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on April 19 and May 1.

CEO's Report – The President and CEO Mike Casper reported on the following, in addition to his written report: Casper informed the board and staff of the summer job openings available through Jo-Carroll

Energy so as to get the word out to the membership. Casper also provided feedback on how the strategic initiatives planning is moving forward, remarking that Buros has gone through the critical issues and the senior staff is helping create actionable initiatives.

b. Financial Operating Report – Casper reported that the Cooperative's operating margins for the year to date were approximately \$1,198,743 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,438,560. The current equity of the cooperative is approximately 24.54%, compared to 23.65% at the end of 2016. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor

Board Issues

a. Discounted Estate Capital Credit Retirements – Discounted Estate Retirements Approval

– A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the discounted estate retirements, as presented.

b. CFC Cooperative System Integrity Fund

– A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Jo-Carroll Energy's participation in the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Cooperative Integrity Fund.

c. AIEC Director and Alternate Director

– A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve AIEC Director and Alternate Director.

d. AIEC Voting Delegate/Alternate Delegate

– A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the AIEC Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate.

e. Jo-Carroll Energy July 26th Board Meeting, Springfield

– By general consent, the board moved to change the board meeting originally scheduled for July 26th to July 18th in Elizabeth.

f. Resolution to Restate Jo-Carroll Energy's Retirement Plan

– A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to restate a resolution regarding Jo-Carroll Energy's retirement plan.

Consideration of Matters discussed in Executive Session

– None.

Reports

Reports were heard on: Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting.

Other Business

– None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Access to broadband is critical for rural America

JCE representative testifies at U.S. House subcommittee hearing on rural broadband

Access to high-speed broadband internet is essential for the continued success and well-being of rural America, small businesses and continued economic development, Jo-Carroll Energy vice president of external relations and general counsel Chris Allendorf told a U.S. House subcommittee during a hearing addressing rural broadband on June 22.

Allendorf was testifying before the U.S. House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade at the hearing focused on broadband deployment efforts by small telecommunications companies that traditionally supply the bulk of broadband services to most of rural America. The subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Rep. Rod Blum (R-Iowa).

"What they wanted to know is what has worked for us in terms of providing broadband and what hasn't," Allendorf said. "Our testimony focused on small businesses and the impact broadband has on small businesses and farms."

The invitation to testify about Jo-Carroll's experience with rural broadband deployment came from the office of U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Illinois). Also testifying were representatives of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband and the Competitive Carriers Association.

"Our testimony related how fixed-wireless broadband has not proven to be a good solution for our area," Allendorf said. "As our utility operations evolved and we switched from fixed-wireless broadband to fiber, we saw benefits of fiber internally, and we heard feedback from local businesses that they needed reliable high-speed internet not subject to latency and bandwidth constraints so that they could be competitive in the global economy."

"We've seen fiber as the broadband technology that we can leverage on existing infrastructure; it is scalable to meet future demands in rural America, unlike fixed-wireless," he added.



Chris Allendorf, Jo-Carroll Energy vice president of external relations and general counsel, testified before a U.S. House subcommittee regarding rural broadband deployment June 22.

While in Washington, Allendorf also visited the offices of four Illinois U.S. representatives to provide them with his subcommittee testimony and to discuss how critical broadband is to rural America. Allendorf emphasized the impact of broadband and how important a technology like fiber is to leveling the playing field for rural small businesses and farms, allowing them to compete in a global economy and, in doing so, provide economic development for rural areas.

Starting in 2016, Jo-Carroll Energy undertook a fiber-to-the-premise pilot project in Galena. "Based on the feedback we have so far, fiber has proven to be the solution—or a major component—of helping rural businesses and rural residents compete with urban areas and enjoy the same quality of life," Allendorf said.

Challenges brought to the committee's attention by Allendorf included consumer density (four consumers per mile in rural areas compared to 30 plus per mile in urban areas), rugged rural terrain, and trying to broadly deploy broadband technology with limited access to capital resources.

"Major government investment through grants and direct funding of construction are essential," Allendorf stated, "and cooperatives should have the same access to these funds as major companies."

Rural utility co-ops are a natural

partner to expand deployment of broadband because of the existing infrastructure they have in place, due in large part to the investments made over 80 years of service, Allendorf said.

Fielding questions from lawmakers, Allendorf reiterated the pressing need for a robust broadband infrastructure in rural areas as the foundation for access to reliable high-speed Internet. He stated that the costs to build the necessary infrastructure are too great for small companies like Jo-Carroll Energy and regulatory burdens are high.

He urged the committee that Congress should look to rural electrification as a model for how government can work with local partners to achieve big things. Allendorf stressed that rural access to broadband today is as important as electricity was 80 years ago.

"Co-ops were tasked with providing electricity to rural America so that rural America had the same quality of life and business benefits that electricity provided their urban peers," Allendorf said. "We see it as equally imperative for rural America to have access to reliable, high-speed broadband as they had electricity."

"Can you imagine large swathes of the United States without electricity today?" Allendorf asked. "Can you see that with broadband 10 years from now? The task is no less great or important."

Illuminating storm safety

Despite the beautiful colors it casts into the sky, lightning brings with it dangerous risks to personal safety. A lightning strike can cause serious or even fatal injuries. To avoid these risks, always keep an eye on weather forecasts and make backup plans in case of an unexpected storm.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. Preparation is important to safety. Listen to, watch, or download an app on a handheld device that provides weather forecasts so that you know if there is a chance of severe weather. If there is a chance, reschedule the activity or make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops.

Safe shelters are in fully enclosed buildings or in a fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle. Open vehicles, such as convertibles, motorcycles, and golf carts, are



not safe. Open structures—such as porches, gazebos, pavilions, and baseball dugouts—are not safe either. Stay in a safe shelter for at least 30 minutes after you last hear thunder.

Before a thunderstorm, turn off or unplug corded appliances and stay away from television sets. Also, turn off your air conditioner to help protect the compressor from a potential power surge and costly repairs from the storm.

During the thunderstorm, do not lie on concrete floors and avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim.

For more information on storm safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

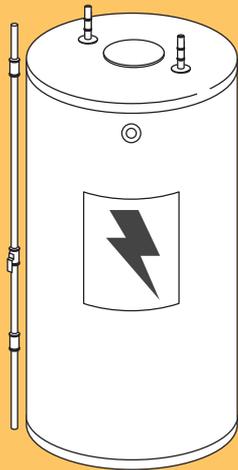
70% of Lightning Fatalities OCCUR JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

Take extra care when enjoying outdoor sporting events and activities when weather turns threatening. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises: “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!” Lightning can strike up to ten miles away from rain, even if you don’t see clouds.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to understand the importance of lightning awareness and how to stay safe. Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

The Hidden Battery

Using Your Electric Water Heater for Heating Storage



1

Electric water heater:

Controllable, high-efficiency electric water heaters are in homes.

2

During times of high demand:

Co-op cuts power to water heaters.

3

When demand drops:

Water heaters are turned back on to run during the night and provide warm water for the next day.

Benefits

Co-ops avoid peak pricing.

Members use power when it's cheaper.

Helps avert need for new power plants.

Water heater storage

Electric water heaters are essentially pre-installed thermal batteries that can be used to manage the storage of heat energy, allowing the co-op to take heavy energy loads off-line during peak periods. This saves energy and money for members.

Contact your local electric cooperative to learn more about load management programs.

Farm Progress Show: August 29-31

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be back at Progress City in Decatur, Ill. this year as people from all over gather to meet, observe and learn.

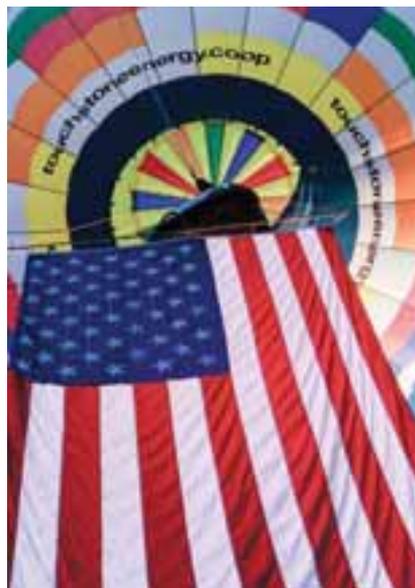
Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community at the Farm Progress Show Aug. 29-31.

Join fellow cooperative members and others from the ag community by visiting Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent. You can learn more about cooperatives and how they help the communities they serve.

Stop by and charge up your phone at our charging station. While you're there, play one of the games for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op

Connections Card will receive a special gift.

Tom Ermer
The Varied Industries Tent runs the length of Fifth and Fourth Progress



Street and is between West Progress and Central Avenue. The Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit will be on the end cap just inside the entrance across from the food court.

Make sure you check out the Live Line Demo, sponsored by Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., located just outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior Lot #549. It is great for the whole family. To learn more, check out their website at livelinedemo.com

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show and plans to fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

Check out the Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2017 Farm Progress Show.

Hope to see you there!

Co-op Connections

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 is 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.

New Co-op Connections businesses

River Cities Heating, Sabula, IA • 815-590-0177
10% off any service call

Alexis' Doggie Spa, Geneseo, IL • 309-944-3326
Free teeth brushing with full groom service

Director completed certificate

Jo-Carroll Energy board chairman David Senn (right) congratulates District 4 director Dan Tindell for completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.





**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

August 11 (8/11) is convenient reminder to **Always call 811 before digging**

With Aug. 11 almost here, Jo-Carroll Energy hopes this date on the calendar, 8/11, will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. In Illinois, the one-call center is JULIE that can also be reached at the toll-free number 800-892-0123 or online at www.illinois1call.com.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to JULIE, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. The legal start date and time will be 48 hours from the time that JULIE

processes your locate request.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

On Aug. 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line. It really is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area."

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

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easy and convenient.**

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other payment options at
www.jocarroll.com

Now available for invoice bills!



Students represent JCE on annual Youth Tour



Pictured from left: Paula Israel, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and Meg Flynn.

Meg Flynn of Galena and Paula Israel of Fulton represented Jo-Carroll Energy in Washington, D.C. during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 9-16. 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 Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and were among 69 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the “Youth to Washington” Tour.

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 several other historical sites.

Sophomores and juniors 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.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.

