



JO-CARROLL

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



CEO'S REPORT

by Mike Casper

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our communities. Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known.

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. Each year, Jo-Carroll Energy participates in the Youth Tour by sending two area high school students on the trip to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour brings together some 1,600 teens from 43 states for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It all takes place June 8-15, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send their participants to our nation's capital for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth



Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

In March, Jo-Carroll Energy will begin the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2018. Students who apply must be the sons or daughters of Jo-Carroll Energy members. If you are a high school sophomore or junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.

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.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about Jo-Carroll Energy's Youth Tour program, call 800-858-5522 or visit jocarroll.com.

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

Petitions available for 2018 director nominations

Nomination petitions for the 2018 Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors are now available.

Five director posts are up for election including:

- District 8, currently represented by Russell Holesinger of Fulton
- District 7, currently represented by David Senn of Mount Carroll
- District 5, currently represented by Pat Smith of Galena
- District 10, currently represented by Ronald Hallendorff and Robert Kuhns, both of Geneseo. With this election, the number of representatives from District 10 will be reduced to one.
- District 4, currently represented by Dan Tindell. Tindell was appointed in 2017 to fill a vacancy to fill the unexpired term until the next election. The District 4 term ends in 2019.

The deadline for filing petitions is March 23, 2018. Members interested in seeking

election to the board may pick up a petition at one of Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or download a petition from the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com.

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. These include but are not limited to: time demands, education expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be announced and listed on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines.

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

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Members is set for May 23, 2018 in Galena.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov





Nine Jo-Carroll Energy employees and two directors donated years of service awards to charity in 2017. Each year, Jo-Carroll Energy recognizes employees for their years of service in increments of five years. Directors are recognized for every two, three-year term. A total of \$500 was donated to charities and organizations on behalf of the employees and directors. Mike Casper congratulated those who were recognized. Pictured from left are: Peggy Kemp, 5 years; Becky Brown, 10 years; Karl Thorsen, 10 years; Kevin Ehrler, 10 years, Ashley Spahn, 15 years; Jackie Weede, 10 years; Marcy Stanger, four terms; Larry Carroll, two terms; and Casper. Not pictured are Jeremy Curtiss, 15 years; Justin Rolwes, 15 years; and Robert Post, 10 years.

Ten Contractor Scholarships Available for 2018 Geothermal Conference

Jo-Carroll Energy is offering 10 contractor scholarships for the 8th Annual Geothermal Conference.

The 2018 Geothermal Conference is sponsored by Geothermal Alliance of Illinois and is one of the largest geothermal conferences in the Midwest.

HVAC contractors, general contractors and anyone involved in the home contractor community is encouraged to attend the conference and apply for one of the 10 Jo-Carroll Energy scholarships.

The 2018 Geothermal Conference will be held in Bloomington on

March 13-14.

“As geothermal grabs a larger market share, it is important that our local contractors be knowledgeable and certified in geothermal HVAC in order to support growth in the use of renewable energy that our cooperative members are interested in,” said John Scott, energy advisor at Jo-Carroll Energy. **Phillip Klein**

Jo-Carroll Energy will cover the cost of registration of the core conference. Attendees are responsible for any pre-conference fees, meals, transportation and lodging. Contractors awarded the scholarship must register

themselves through an online link provided by the cooperative. A discounted room rate will be made available to attendees who register by March 1.

Applications are available at our three offices as well as on our website at www.jocarroll.com. You may also contact Scott at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339 for more information or to request an application.

The application deadline is February 23. Completed applications can be emailed to jscott@jocarroll.com or dropped off at any Jo-Carroll Energy office.

Annual food drive benefits local pantries

Thanks to the generosity of Jo-Carroll Energy members and employees, the cooperative donated more than 750 pounds of nonperishable groceries to local food pantries.

The proceeds from the co-op's annual Light Up the Holidays Food Drive were divided between the 10 pantries in Jo-Carroll's service territory.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors also approved cash donations of \$500 to each of the 10 pantries, including:

In Jo-Davie County

- East Dubuque Food Pantry
- Elizabeth Food Basket
- Hanover Food Bank
- United Churches of Galena Food Pantry

In Carroll County

- Helping Hands Food Pantry (Chadwick and Milledgeville)
- Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry

In Whiteside County

- Albany Food Pantry
- Erie Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry

In Henry County

- Geneseo Food Pantry



Lyle Gregory, director of the Helping Hands Food Pantry of Chadwick and Milledgeville accepts a \$500 donation as well as non-perishable food items from Jamie Lockwood of Jo-Carroll Energy.



Jo-Carroll Energy presented the Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry a \$500 donation along with several bags of non-perishable groceries. Pictured from left are Jamie Lockwood, digital media coordinator, Harlan "H" Wiebenga, food pantry volunteer and Russell Holesinger, district 8 director of Jo-Carroll.



Mary Okrasinski, director of the Albany Food Pantry, accepts a \$500 donation and bags of non-perishable groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy digital media coordinator, Jamie Lockwood.



Jean Spaid, Erie Food Pantry volunteer, right, accepts a \$500 donation and several bags of food from Jo-Carroll Energy digital media coordinator, Jamie Lockwood, left.



Jo-Carroll Energy presents the United Churches of Galena Food Pantry with a \$500 donation along with several bags of groceries. Pictured from left are Carmen Ferguson, food pantry volunteer, Jo-Carroll linemen Rob Headlee, Ryan Stadel, Jake Salzmänn and Keith Hayes, and Tom Van Gelder, food pantry director.



Jamie Lockwood, digital media coordinator at Jo-Carroll Energy, presents a \$500 donation and non-perishable food items to Loraine Stutzman, director of the Hanover Food Pantry.



Liz Clouse, director of the Savanna Food Pantry, accepts a \$500 donation and several bags of groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Brandon Beyer, staking technician.



Norma Schwartz, left, accepts a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food items from Jo-Carroll Energy's director of utility operations Bob Pelelo, right.



Mary Chase, East Dubuque Food Pantry volunteer accepted a \$500 donation and several bags of groceries presented by Jo-Carroll Energy's digital media coordinator, Jamie Lockwood.



The Value of Co-op Connections®

You could buy a house (or possibly two) with the money members have saved on prescriptions with their Co-op Connections® Card. As of Nov. 30, 2017, members totaled savings over \$400,000! Want another bold statistic? Less than 1 percent of Jo-Carroll Energy members are using their Co-op Connections® Card at the pharmacy, and yet significant savings are adding up. Imagine what savings we would see if every member showed their card to their pharmacist this month.

Thankfully, not every member may need prescription savings through Co-op Connections®. However, those members without prescription insurance may receive up to 80 percent off certain

medications. Each pharmacy contracts their discounts differently. For specific discounts on your medication, contact your pharmacist and mention the Bin, PCN, Group and Member numbers on the back of your Co-op Connections® Card.

Don't have a Co-op Connections® Card? Call 800-858-5522 ext. 1208 to request yours by mail, or pick one up at any of our three office locations in Elizabeth, Savanna or Geneseo.

For more information on Co-op Connections® savings at the pharmacy, local businesses or dental,

vision and chiropractic providers, visit www.connections.coop.

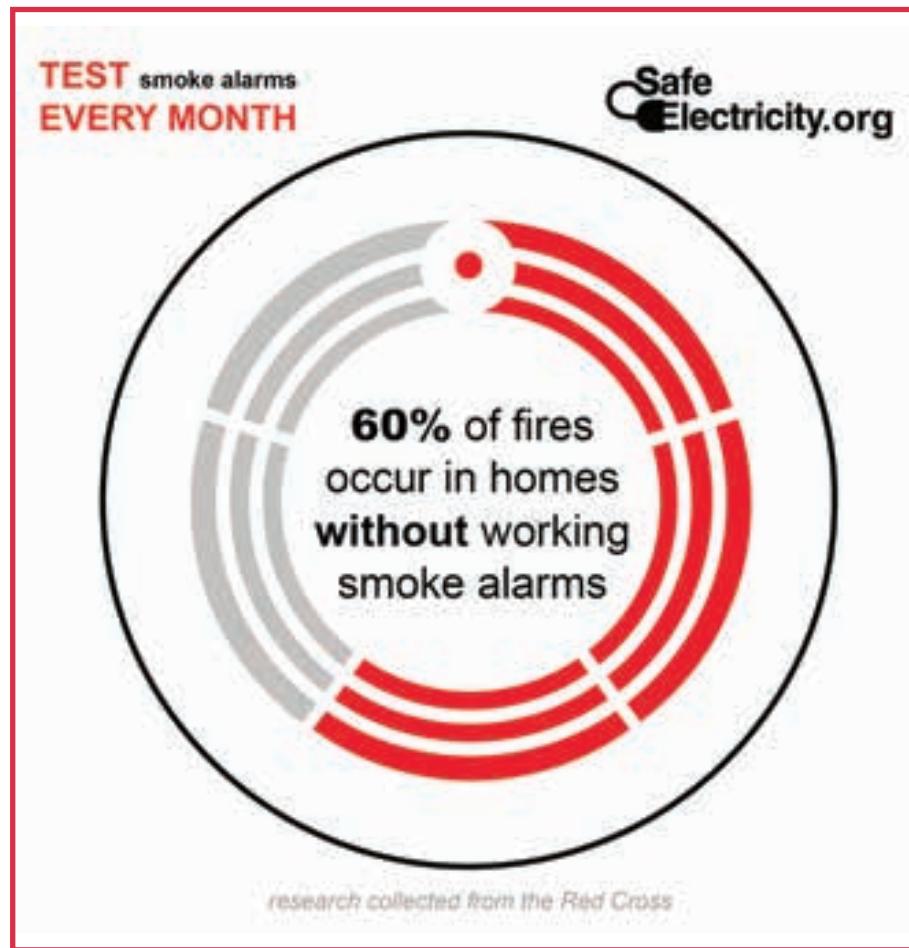
**Co-op Connections® is not insurance and is not intended to replace insurance.*



Keep your home safe from electrical fires

Your lights turn on in an instant, and your plug slides into outlets without sparks or shocks. You can't see it, and typically don't think much about it. However, the electricity that we take for granted every day requires attention to prevent potential hazards. Safe Electricity offers these tips to help keep your home safe from electrical problems and fires:

- Have all work done by a qualified electrician.
- Get regular check-ups for older homes, which have older wiring and are often designed for fewer appliances and electronics. Have the electrical system checked every five to 10 years, depending on the age of your home. If your home is older than 30 years, make sure the wiring meets updated National Electrical Code standards.
- Watch for warning signs such as hot or discolored switch plates, cords or plugs; dimming or flickering lights; buzzing or sizzling sounds. If you smell a burning odor, check it out immediately and unplug electric items in that area.
- Immediately repair loose outlets, and discard or replace cracked, cut or broken insulation on electric cords.
- Keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas so they don't get stepped on, damaged or cause a tripping hazard.
- Use extension cords



temporarily, not as permanent wiring. Too many extension cords in one area creates a risk of overheating or overloading circuits.

- Never use cords or appliances that have exposed, damaged or faulty wiring. Have them repaired or replaced.
- Avoid using nails or staples to secure electric cords in place. When an electrical cord is punctured, it increases the likelihood of electric shock and fire.
- When you replace light bulbs, ensure that you match the recommended wattage for your lamp or other light fixtures. Using an incorrect wattage increases the likelihood for electrical fires.

- If small children are present, install tamper resistant outlets or use outlet covers to reduce the risk of shocks and fire.
- Educate your loved ones on the dangers of electricity and provide guidance on care for your appliances and electronics.

Electrical safety can also reduce energy waste and save on the power bill. Turn off electronics and lights when they are not in use. This reduces heat as it lowers electricity use.

Learn more about home electrical safety at SafeElectricity.org.



**Need money
for college?**

Scholarships
available
through the
Jo-Carroll Energy
Scholarship
Program

- General scholarships
- Lineworker scholarships
- 2-year/technical school scholarships
- 'Nontraditional student' scholarships
- Director's Scholarships

Visit
www.jocarroll.com
for information

apply now!



June 8-15, 2018

- ★ Join hundreds of young people from across the country
- ★ Visit historic monuments and museums
- ★ Boost your community service and engagement
- ★ Meet with your U.S. Representatives and Senators
- ★ Meet and mingle with students from many states on Rural Electric Youth Day

Apply now!

Visit
jocarroll.com

for more information and applications

Application deadline is February 23