



# JO-CARROLL

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

### 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.

Every day we rely on electricity. We depend on the refrigerator to keep our food fresh, air conditioning and heating to keep us comfortable. At work and at home, we rely on electricity to power our computers, phones, and lights. Without this consistent, reliable and affordable power source, businesses would relocate, jobs would be lost and prices of goods and services would increase.

That's why Jo-Carroll Energy is concerned about the latest regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The latest proposal from the EPA would amend the Clean Air Act to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the power plants on which we rely every day.

A lot has been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. Lost in the shuffle of thousands of pages is the impact on people. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down?

These are difficult questions. But they're important questions.

In July, Duane Noland, President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, wrote in the pages of Illinois Country Living about the dramatic effect the new rule, if adopted, could likely have on the bills of co-op member-owners.

As he pointed out, Illinois' not-for-profit electric cooperatives support an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, one that incorporates natural gas, nuclear, renewable energy and coal to generate power. If adopted, the rule "will likely result in substantially increased power costs to every Illinois co-op member whose power includes coal-fired generation—and that would be all of them," Duane wrote. "While we greatly respect the EPA's objectives, any cost increases our not-for-profit co-ops incur must be passed on directly to the member-owners."

We join our brother and sister co-ops in a dedication to a cleaner environment as

part of our commitment to community. Like many others, your co-op has long supported energy efficiency measures and a portion of our power supply comes from a variety of renewable sources. For example, 13 percent of Dairyland Power Cooperative's electricity comes from renewable energy resources that include hydro, wind, solar, landfill gas-to-energy, methane digesters and biomass. Here at Jo-Carroll Energy we recently opened subscriptions to our first community solar farm.

Still, the majority of our electricity comes from coal-fired power plants, a traditional driving force behind our Midwest economy.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned utility, we strive to provide the most affordable and reliable energy possible to our members. However, these new regulations could endanger that. The EPA chose a regulation that adversely and disproportionately affects electric cooperatives. That's why we are respectfully telling the EPA that this regulation does not work for us.

As Duane said, we greatly respect the EPA's objectives, however we believe that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above policy are not mutually exclusive.

Together, we can work for energy efficiency; we can work together and shift some of our power to renewable sources. Together we can talk about how we did this without regulations, without mandates, but because it was the right thing to do.

And together we can remind regulators and lawmakers about the impacts the proposed new "existing plant" rules will have on you.

Many of you may have taken action opposing the previous regulations that affected new power plants. Today we ask you once again, to let the EPA know you support a "common sense" energy policy to keep electricity affordable. Ask your friends and neighbors to join us. Visit [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) again and tell the EPA you cannot afford these new regulations. We need affordable, reliable electricity. Together we can make our voices heard.



# Resume of Minutes

## Regular Board Meeting • June 25, 2014

### 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 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

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda as modified and the Consent Agenda were approved.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Senn thanked everyone for the successful 75th Anniversary Celebration. Chairman Senn said we are members of many groups and there is strength in membership. We have been extremely active in the resolutions process, but that we need to keep our members engaged.

**Dairyland Report** – Director Stadel reported that the Search Committee has enlisted the services of a consultant to assist in the search for Bill Berg's successor and they are just beginning the process. He also reported that there are still problems with the railroad and coal deliveries to the Alma Plant.

**AIEC Report** – Director Senn reported on the Shelby Electric Cooperative election. He reported that Jay Bartlett gave a presentation regarding Prairie State. Director Senn also reported on NRECA's margins, the AIEC Annual Meeting, House bills that passed, and the book by Ted Case entitled "Power Plays".

**APGA Report** – Director Carroll reported that there is a lot going on with regulations. Gas and Electric groups are slowly beginning to work together. He reported that gas exports are a big issue, and that AGA is working with APGA.

**PPI Report** – CEO Hastings reported that PPI CEO Jay Bartlett is spending a lot of time on the Prairie State campus. Randy Short has been hired as the new COO at Prairie State and Michael Yusko has been hired to coordinate the campus wide safety efforts as corporate safety manager.

#### Monthly Committee Review

**a. Policy** – Board Policy 131: Distributed Generation was referred to the Policy Committee for review.

**b. Annual Meeting Planning Committee Report** – Director Smith provided a report from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee meeting.

**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 \$521,965 in May, compared to a budgeted margin of \$172,420. The Board accepted the May Financial Operating Report for filing by general consent.

**b. Power Supply Report** – CEO Hastings reported that two contracts are completed and we are waiting on the Dairyland agreements.

**c. CFO Report** – CFO Heidenreich gave an update on the capital credits for the former Farmers Mutual Electric Cooperative. She gave a presentation on the proposed hybrid credit retirement.

**d. Assistant General Manager Report** – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buros gave an update on the Cordova Road expansion, Natural Gas peaking unit, and the community solar RFP (Request For Proposal).

**e. Culture of Excellence and Communications** – Merri Sevey, Vice-President of Human Resources reported on the 75th Anniversary Celebration and thanked the Board for their assistance.

**f. Member Services** – Vice-President of Member Services Skien reported on the SEDC User Conference and the great technological advances coming. Skien also reported on the Youth Tour where she served as a chaperone for the tour.

**g. External Affairs** – Chris Allendorf, Corporate Counsel, reported on the United States Supreme Court Clean Air Act decision, which was a victory for the EPA and does not bode well for challenges to the new Existing Power Plant Rule. He also reported on Illinois legislation, including the Road Construction Bill, unsuccessful bills, and amendments to the IL Constitution. He also reported on TCEDA's Political Advisory Committee, that Lisa McCarthy will now be reporting to Chris, the Thomson Prison Workshop's at Manny's with vendors for the Prison, and the National Manufacturing Day in October for kids. Board Attorney Cox reported on the upcoming events that he would be attending for Quinn, Bustos, and Durbin and the discussion he had with State Rep. Moffitt.

#### Board Issues

**a. Enterprise Risk Management** – Sr. Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Buros gave a power point presentation on the Enterprise Risk Management Policy. The Board approved referring the policy to the Policy Committee for review.

**b. Community Solar Rate** – Sr. Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Buros gave a power point presentation on rates for the South View Solar Farm. The Board approved the solar project rates as recommended by staff.

**c. Utility Telecom Council (UTC) Membership** – The board approved a one year membership for UTC. The membership will assist in pursuing a grant.

**d. Review of Debt Management Plan and Cash Management** – CFO Heidenreich reviewed the updated Debt Management Plan and Cash Management Plan and both plans were approved by the Board.

**e. Badger Power Annual Meeting** – Attendees were identified and all attending are Delegates. Director Nominees and Alternate were chosen by consensus.

**f. Region 5 & 6 Meetings Voting Delegates/ Alternates** – By consensus NRECA Delegate and Alternate, CFC Delegate and Alternate, RESCO Delegate, and Alternate for Federated were chosen.

**g. Policy Committee and Audit Committee Meeting Dates** – Meeting dates and times were chosen for both meetings.

**Reports** – Reports were heard on the following meetings/events: Dairyland Annual Meeting, Rep. Brian Stewart Event, CFC Forum, 75th Anniversary Celebration, and Rep. Don Moffitt Event.

**Upcoming Meetings** – The following upcoming meetings were discussed: CFC IL Statewide Financial Workshop, PPI Committee/Board Meeting, Dairyland Power Board Meeting, APGA Annual Conference, NRECA Course 929.1, Jo-Carroll Energy Board Meeting following the NRECA Course and the AIEC Annual Meeting.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.





## Jo-Carroll Energy electric members can now subscribe to solar farm output

Jo-Carroll Energy now offers electric members the opportunity to subscribe to the South View Solar Farm.

As of the deadline for the September Hi-Lines, panels were still available for subscription in the cooperative's new community solar farm. Construction of the farm is expected to be underway this month on three-quarters of an acre behind the east campus at the cooperatives Elizabeth headquarters.

Members who receive their electricity from the cooperative, and whose accounts are in good standing, are eligible to purchase subscriptions for capacity credits. Participating members will receive a monthly bill credit based on the output of the panels.

### Community Solar: What is that?

- Electric cooperative hosts a local, centrally-sited solar power installation
- Members participate by subscribing to panels/output
- Member participants receive a monthly bill credit for power produced by their panels
- Costs and capacity credits stay with participating members
- Any member who receives an electric bill from the cooperative can have solar!

### Program details

South View Solar Farm will consist of 460 solar panels with a combined capacity of 126.5 kW (dc). Credit based on the actual production of the solar farm will be provided on participating members' electric bills.

- Twenty-year subscription agreement
- \$890 investment per panel
- Each panel has a capacity of 275 watts
- Subscriptions should be sized to the members' electric load; a member may subscribe to no more than 10 panels in the initial offering
- Estimate average return is \$48-50 per panel per year in credits
- Participating members can expect to break even on their investment over the life of the project.

For more information or to subscribe, call 800-858-5522 or visit our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) to download a subscription agreement.



### One of these home owners is paying too much.

Insulation is cheaper than heating your roof. Midwestern winters can be brutal. Now is the time to prepare for cold weather. With the right tools, you can understand your home's utility costs. Call the Energy Detective to schedule a

**FREE Home Assessment - or - \$300 Energy Audit**

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Watch our Energy Detective Video  
[www.youtube.com/user/JoCarrollEnergy](http://www.youtube.com/user/JoCarrollEnergy)



# Area students are winners in coloring contest

Artists, Leiah Adams, 6, of East Dubuque; Alivia Garcia, 7, of Savanna; and Holly-Ann Dockins, 9, of Galena were named winners in Jo-Carroll Energy's 2014 summer coloring contest.

Each winner received a set of school supplies for the fall. Jo-Carroll Energy partnered with area libraries

within the service territory to promote the coloring contest. In appreciation, the cooperative donated five energy-related children's books to the libraries in the winners' hometowns.

This year's coloring page highlighted LED Lucy, Touchstone Energy's newest energy efficiency and conservation mascot. LED

Lucy made her Northwest Illinois debut at Jo-Carroll Energy's 75th Anniversary Celebration in Elizabeth on June 21.

For more information about Jo-Carroll Energy's youth programs, visit the "Student Center" under the "Community" tab at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).



*Alivia Garcia, 7, of Savanna displays her winning coloring page from Jo-Carroll Energy's summer coloring contest. Pictured with Garcia are Letha Robbe, children's librarian, and Elecia Walter, Jo-Carroll Energy marketing and communications coordinator.*



*Jamie Lockwood, Jo-Carroll Energy communications and marketing intern, and Rachel O'Neil, children's librarian at the Galena Public Library, are pictured with Holly-Ann Dockins, 9, of Galena, a winner of Jo-Carroll Energy's summer coloring contest.*



*Leiah Adams, 6, of East Dubuque was named a winner of Jo-Carroll Energy's summer coloring contest. She is pictured with Kathy Williams, children's librarian at the East Dubuque Library, accepting five energy books from Elecia Walter, Jo-Carroll Energy marketing and communications coordinator.*

# Staying connected has never been easier

## We have an app for that!

Members of Jo-Carroll Energy can now use a smartphone to view and pay their bills, update account profiles and sign up for account alerts and reminders.

In response to the membership's growing request for more flexible bill payment options and a steady increase of smart device users, Jo-Carroll Energy has created a mobile application that can be downloaded for use on most Android or Apple devices as well as a native browser application.

The application is easy to use and offers members one more way to manage their bills, notes Jennifer Skien, vice president of member services. "This will be a great tool for members on the go, and one more way we can connect with our members," she said.

The app also allows members to find office locations and contact the co-op via email or phone.

Members can find the app by searching for JCE Mobile in the Android or Apple stores. It is just one of the mobile apps offered to provide information and service to members.

## MyAccount Mobile (JCE Mobile)

Jo-Carroll Energy's MyAccount Member Services Portal can now be accessed easily on the web or by downloading the mobile app for Android or Apple devices.

With the new account app, members can:

- View a bill
- Send a secure payment directly from your mobile device
- Set up alerts and reminders
- View payment history
- Easily contact the co-op via email or phone
- View office locations

## Together We Save

Energy efficiency is important to us at Jo-Carroll Energy. With the TogetherWeSave.com app from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, you can watch how the little changes add up to big savings.

The app helps you discover easy ways to save energy and money in your home. The app allows members to:

- Calculate the energy costs of household electrical items
- Learn energy savings tips
- Receive notification alerts from Jo-Carroll Energy

## Co-op Connections

The Co-op Connections App makes sure you stay connected to the savings available through the Co-op Connections Card. This little card offers discounts locally, nationally and online for Jo-Carroll Energy members. Use this app to find discounts right at home or anywhere you travel. The program also includes Healthy Savings discounts from participating providers for prescriptions, dental, vision and chiropractor visits.



With the app you can:

- Look up discounts
- Set up an account, identify your co-op and start using the app to show your Co-op Connections Card.

Visit our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) for more information on all these mobile apps.



## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS

Jo-Carroll Energy is proud to offer a collection of recipes from outstanding cooks who are our members and employees.

This limited edition commemorative cookbook makes an ideal gift or keepsake for your cooperative's 75th anniversary!

Copies are available for purchase at all our offices.  
(While supplies last)

Price of the books is as close to cost as possible;  
any proceeds will benefit the Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarship fund.

**\$10**

# Welcome Inn, Elizabeth

“We didn’t think it would work,” said Chef Olloman “Al” Lumani, owner of the Welcome Inn restaurant in Elizabeth, “but we got everything we wanted.”

He learned to cook in New York City. As a young man and immigrant from Macedonia, Al started in the restaurant business washing dishes. He learned to cook in New York City. During his time in New York, he was trained in many restaurant trades and soon became a pastry chef.

“However,” Al recalled, “I did not like it.”

After meeting his wife, Luli, in the Quad Cities, Lumani chose to relocate and try his hand at American and European cuisines.

Before moving to Elizabeth in 2004, the couple owned a restaurant in Galva called Al’s Family Café. They operated this business for three and a half years while they started their family.

“We moved to Elizabeth because of the school district,” Luli stated. The couple has three children, and they believed Elizabeth was a great place to raise them.

Al described his philosophy of living locally when he stated, “We are the community. They are the community. We are one.”

More than 10 employees work for Al and Luli in Elizabeth. According to the couple, the staff is a family. And within every family, there is always a little bit of competition.

Luli spends most of her working day as a head chef at Café Crumbles in Savanna, a business she and her sister, Nia, started just one year ago. Serving breakfast and lunch, Café Crumbles presents the



same family atmosphere and great food as customers receive at the Elizabeth Welcome Inn.

“When I eat out, I expect good food, too,” stated Luli. With good food comes good service. Al reiterated, “We are here to serve.”

Those who live near Milan can enjoy a meal at the Milan Welcome Inn. Al is a partner in this restaurant that opened in 2009.

The Lumani family tree has roots in Macedonia and Albania and much of the culinary tradition from Europe appears in the homemade meals at the Welcome Inn.

At the Welcome Inn, customers may eat breakfast all day or order a steak. The soup and salad bar is popular and so are their beer battered fries. The menu is large and the customers are family.



The Lumanis thank their customers and community for supporting them for almost 10 years.

“We are blessed. Without our customers, this restaurant is just four empty walls,” Al stated.

At the oldest restaurant building in Elizabeth, in the heart of Jo Daviess County, customers find comfort food and a new family at the Welcome Inn.

*Open six days a week, Jo-Carroll Energy members can visit the Welcome Inn at 102 N. Main Street and save 10% off one meal when they show their Co-op Connections card. Visit [www.elizabethwelcomeinn.com](http://www.elizabethwelcomeinn.com) or call 815-858-2254 for more information.*

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



## Avoiding dangers during harvest season

The rush to harvest can result in farmers working long days with little sleep. Before working in a field or around shops or grain bins, always take the time to note the location of power lines, so that you can make sure to remain a safe distance from them.

Power lines can pose a major hazard for farmers. Typically, power lines over streets and rural areas have a minimal clearance of 18 feet and 12.5 feet over residential private property.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- ◆ Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- ◆ Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ◆ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- ◆ Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- ◆ Always remember to lower

extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

- ◆ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ◆ If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.

If contact is made with a power line, remember, it is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call the local utility provider immediately. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” away.

If you see someone’s equipment in contact with a power line, the best help you can give is at a safe distance. During one of these situations, make sure to yell out to, signal, or call the equipment operator to make sure he remains in the vehicle, and notify the local utility. For more farm and electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## New natural gas facility charge

Effective with bills mailed in September 2014, the monthly facility charge for Jo-Carroll Energy natural gas members will increase. This is a continuation of the previously announced series of increases.

The facility charge is what helps Jo-Carroll Energy pay for the costs associated with bringing natural gas to you. Even when members use little or no energy, we still have expenses to keep it ready and reliable for when you need it.

The facility charge helps cover a variety of expenses such as the costs of pipelines, metering devices and other equipment. Other costs of doing business, such as accounting, billing and associated activities are covered through the facility charge, also.

These costs—all those things we need in order to have service available for you when you need it—are incurred no matter how much gas is used.

### Natural Gas Facility Charge increase

Rate	Old	New
42	\$14.00	\$16.00
43	\$19.50	\$21.75
44	\$32.50	\$36.25



# Co-op in the Community



Jo-Carroll Energy employees have been busy this summer living the cooperative principle Commitment to Community. [Above left] Jennifer Skien was one of several employees to help judge at county 4-H fairs. [Bottom left] Merri Sevey, Peggy Francomb, Jamie Lockwood and Todd Chambers and his son, Ayden, joined Lil' Mr. Jo Aidan Wand and Miss Carroll Caylee Allen for the Elizabeth Parade. [Above] Employees and their children, grandchildren, nephew and friends were involved in the annual 4th of July Parade that was held on July 5th 2014 in Savanna. The kids enjoyed throwing out candy and waving their flags to the crowd as Jacob Helms drove everyone down the parade route. Back Row: Cindy Price, Jacob Helms, Carene Helms, Elecia Walter, Jodi Sweeney; Front Row: Hannah Price, Kason Price, Rylin Price, Seanna Sweeney, Kadence Rice, Logan Sweeney, Grady Flickinger, Adair Pempilton and Liam Flickinger. (Not Pictured Mary Kate Flickinger)

Can you afford to **pay more** for your electricity bill?

THE **EPA** THINKS YOU CAN.

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

**ACTION.COOP**