


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Annual Meeting of Members held at cooperative office

The Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. (MCEC) headquarters was buzzing with excitement as members, young and old, gathered for their 78th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, June 11. Activities for children, a health fair, entertainment and a pork chop lunch preceded the business portion of the meeting.

MCEC Board Chairman Larry Kraft welcomed his fellow member-owners and recognized recently retired Director Larry Haas for his more than 40 years of service on the board of directors. In addition, Kraft explained the duties of directors and their efforts to strive to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. He reminded members that they are owners of the cooperative and the board was looking out for their interests by keeping informed about ongoing regulation, technology and the market forces in order to make sound conservative decisions regarding the future.

Kraft also introduced newly appointed board director, Richard Hollis from Columbia, who will serve out the term of recently retired board member, Larry Haas.

President/CEO Alan Wattles addressed members and stressed the importance of their input as owners of the cooperative. Wattles reported that MCEC had a strong



Left to right; Alan Wattles, President/CEO; Manlee Knobloch, board member for District 8; Joel Harres, board member for District 3; Gary Gregson, board member for District 7.



Left to right; Board chairman Larry Kraft presenting retiring board member Larry Haas with a retirement plaque for 43 years of service to the cooperative.

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year, financially and operationally, and was able to retire capital credits in the amount of \$298,089. To date, the cooperative has returned \$5,666,293 to its members.

“Our main goal is to continue keeping your cooperative financially strong and stable for the future, and be less dependent on hot summers and cold winters,” stated Wattles.

“Our long term financial goal is to have an equity ratio of above 37 percent and to continue to return capital credits when possible.”

Wattles also stressed the importance of maintaining a culture of safety at the cooperative. That

culture starts at the top with the board of directors. A member of the board attends monthly safety meetings to show the board’s concern for the well-being for all of MCEC’s employees. The co-op has not had a lost time incident since November 2012 and continues to foster a safe work environment.



Save with the Co-op Connections Card

Summer has quickly come and gone, but that doesn’t mean the fun has to end! Did you know Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC) 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 MCEC 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 www.mcec.org or calling our offices 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.

Meghaan Evans 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.

A week in D.C.

Emily Etter of Freeburg, Grace Kapelski of Smithton, and Amelia Schmitz of Belleville, represented Monroe County Electric Co-Operative 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 Congressman Mike Bost 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,



Pictured from left: Emily Etter, Grace Kapelski, Congressman Bost and Amelia Schmitz.

the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

Juniors in high schools that are within the service area of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative

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.

MCEC line outages - June 2016

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
06/01/16	1:50	47	Lake Ronnie	Other, Deterioration	Waterloo
06/02/16	1:20	19	Algonquin Forest	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
06/02/16	0:46	15	Algonquin Forest	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
06/07/16	0:58	188	Fountain Substaton	Small Animals or Birds	Fountain
06/07/16	0:32	53	Fountain Substaton	Small Animals or Birds	Fountain
06/13/16	1:30	76	Old Baum Church Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
06/15/16	2:03	119	Gall Rd	Electrical Overload	N. Waterloo
06/23/16	1:35	51	Old Orchard Ln	Trees, Other	Waterloo
06/25/16	3:25	34	Schlueter German Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Smithton
06/28/16	3:08	9	Hern Rd	Trees, Other	Fults

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • 800-757-7433

Manage your energy use with these handy apps

By Anne Prince

Tracking your steps, tracking your children, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car—these days, it seems like there is an app for everything. If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your energy use, there may be an app that works for you. While there are several energy use apps to choose from, some can be difficult to use, particularly those aimed at general efficiency. There are no clear standouts, so try a few, and choose the app that works best for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use. But, if you are looking for a more granular way to obtain information about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill. The following is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned in this article are available for Apple and Android systems.

Nest

Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smart phone, iPad or iTouch—whether in your car or on your couch. App users can view and edit a thermostat schedule and

keep an eye on how much energy is being used. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among others.

Together We Save

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages. This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities. The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips. For Touchstone Energy® Cooperative members, the Together We Save app calculates energy costs based on your actual utility rates for even greater accuracy. In addition, the app links to MCEC's website for timely updates and information.

Smart Hub

The Smart Hub app transmits utility data enabling consumers to see near real-time information about their energy use. Essentially, this app helps customers better understand how and when they use energy. The Smart Hub app was developed by National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) and uses the

same data as the Smart Hub web portal. While all members can pay their utility bill using their mobile device, pre-pay customers can also view their balance. For members who have solar PV

Lennox iComfort

Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products – in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat. It has similar features to the Nest, in that users can remotely control their home thermostat and other settings. In addition, the app allows users to program the system to an energy savings “away mode” when no one is home. For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then cancel the “away mode” as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.

Your trusted energy resource

While these apps employ the latest technology to maximize your ability to manage your use, the next generation of energy apps will likely integrate across multiple platforms—managing your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices from the convenience of your smart phone. In the meantime, while app technology continues to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money is your local electric co-op.

MCEC can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, local energy use and weather patterns for your region and other factors unique to your location. Contact MCEC's energy advisor at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433 to learn more.

Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues 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.



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.

Sarah Morgan