



2011 Board of Director Nominating Procedure:



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Across The President's Desk

(sections taken from official cooperative by-laws)

Section 4.06 Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of each meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected ("Voting Meeting"), a Credentials and Election Committee ("C & E Committee") consisting of three (3) Members in good standing from each District in which a Director's term expires or vacancy occurs; provided that no such committee need be constituted to fill a vacancy in accordance with Section 4.02 (d).

(d) Nominations to be by Petition. Candidates (including incumbents whose terms are expiring) who desire to run for election for a Director position scheduled for election at the next Voting Meeting shall deliver to the Secretary of the C&E Committee, at least forty-five (45)

days before the Voting Meeting, a written Petition of Nomination ("Nominating Petition") that: lists, on each page of the Nominating Petition, the name of the candidate ("Nominee"); indicates, on each page of the Nominating Petition, the District in which the Nominee resides (or in which the Entity Member designating such Nominee pursuant to Section 4.02(a) is located), and the Directorate District position for which such individual is being nominated, which must be the same; and contains the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within sixty (60) days of the first signature, of at least twenty (20) Members who reside in the Directorate District for which the Nominee is being nominated. No Member may sign a Nominating Petition for more than one (1) Nominee in a single election. If a Member does sign a Nominating Petition for more than one (1) Nominee, the Member's signature shall not be valid on any of the petitions signed by the Member. If a membership is jointly held, all of the persons holding such joint membership shall be treated as one Member and only one of such persons may sign a Nominating Petition for any single election. If more than one such person signs a Nominating Petition, for different

Nominees, none of the signatures for such Member shall be counted. If more than one such person signs a Nominating Petition, but all for the same Nominee, only one of such signatures shall be counted.

(e) Display of Petitions. After verifying that a Nominating Petition complies with this Bylaw, the C&E Committee shall display the Nominating Petition in public view at the Cooperative's headquarters and on the Cooperative's website. Such display and listing shall be arranged by Directorate District and listed within each Directorate District in the order received in qualifying form by the Secretary of the C&E Committee.

(f) No Nominations from the Floor or Written-In. Nominations of an individual to run for election to a Director position scheduled for election at a Voting Meeting will not be accepted from the floor at such meeting, nor will write-in votes naming persons not properly nominated in accordance with the foregoing be counted.

Members may pick up a written Petition of Nomination form at the co-op office.

Attention: More HomE rebate funds available!

Good news! The HomE Energy Rebate program that began in May of last year has been re-funded and new money is available that the member can apply for.

Members who own their homes, can apply for a residential energy assessment, which makes them eligible for a series of rebates for efficiency upgrades they make to their home. The homes must be the member's primary residences to qualify.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives is distributing an additional \$1 million dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or stimulus funds to cooperative members through this program. The funds are being allocated evenly to members of 25 electric distribution cooperatives in the state, which includes Monroe County Electric Cooperative. **The program will last until this second round of stimulus funds allocated for our cooperative is exhausted.**

How does the program work? Start by contacting your local electric cooperative to arrange for a home energy assessment. There is a \$25 charge for this service. Then a cooperative representative will meet with you at your home and do an energy assessment. The cooperative will provide you with a written follow-up report that will make a

series of recommendations on how you might improve your home's energy efficiency – saving money and valuable energy.

Then the next step is up to you. Based upon the recommendations made by the cooperative, you could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$1,500 per residence for improvements you make. Rebates are available for Energy Star-qualifying heating-cooling system upgrades, and for installation of heat pump water heaters. Rebates are also available for installation of insulation and weather stripping/sealing.

Rebate schedule:

Geothermal heat pump\$1,500
 Air-source heat pump.....\$1,000
 Central air conditioning \$350*
 Natural gas or LP furnace..... \$350*
 Heat pump water heater.....\$250
 Insulation.....30 percent of project costs

The maximum total grant is \$1,500 per cooperative member/residence. Grants will be approved for a central air or gas furnace upgrade, but not both. **Again, the program will continue until the stimulus funds that were allocated to Monroe County Electric Cooperative are gone.**

All heating-cooling system upgrades must meet federal Energy Star standards in order to be eligible.



The standards are:

Geothermal, closed loop:	14.1EER, 3.3 COP
Geothermal, open loop:	16.2 EER, 3.6 COP
Air-source heat pump, split:	12.5 EER, 16 SEER
Air-source heat pump, package:	12 EER, 14 SEER
Central air conditioning, split:	13 EER, 16 SEER
Central air conditioning, package:	12 EER, 14 SEER
Gas furnace:	95 percent efficiency
Heat pump water heater:	2.0 energy factor

For more information about HomE, contact your local electric cooperative at 939-7171, 1-800-757-7433 or by e-mail at mcec@hbc.net.

Rebates will be available until funds are exhausted.

MCEC Line Outages - November 2010

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
11/08/10	2:23	45	Imbs Station Rd	TREES, OTHER	East Carondelet
11/11/10	0:57	5	Dori Lane	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Millstadt
11/14/10	4:00	238	Algonquin Forest Subdivision	OTHER, DETERIORATION	Millstadt
11/16/10	1:14	53	Ames Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Poe
11/18/10	4:03	203	Ahne Rd	OTHER, DETERIORATION	Waterloo
11/24/10	2:52	65	Kaskaskia Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Fults

Youth to Washington trip may provide answers for your future

OK. So you aren't really into politics. As a junior in high school, you're thinking about college and where you're going to come up with more than \$100,000 to pay for higher education. You're also trying to decide what you want to work at the rest of your life to make that college experience pay off.

Oddly enough, the very people who may have answers to those questions are wearing the title of state legislator or seated in chambers of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C.

Before you know it, you will be voting in your first election and the weight of the country's decisions will partially belong to you. Will you support a Congressman who wants to pass Cap & Trade? Will you be in favor of farm subsidies? As you approach what was once "draft-age," do you think we should send more troops to Iraq and Afghanistan or should the military be strengthening our borders? Oh, and when you get the opportunity to meet your Congressman, in addition to these questions will you ask: What has Congress done to make higher education more affordable and will I be able to find a job when I graduate?

Electric and telephone cooperatives in 44 states believe that young people deserve a first-class opportunity to educate themselves in the government process. Each year, the cooperatives across the nation sponsor more than 1,500 high school students to make the trek to Washington to get that personal initiation, and they have a lot of fun



in the process.

It all begins in Springfield on April 6, 2011 during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day where nearly 300 students will visit the State Capitol and spend much of the morning meeting with legislators. You will tour the Supreme Court and spend the afternoon touring local sites.

To be considered for this trip, see your guidance counselor for details as participation rules vary from co-op to co-op.

This year marks the 52nd trip to the nation's capital and promises to be as exciting as ever. Students learn the principles required to keep cooperative members working together for the cooperative's success by establishing their own "chip and pop" cooperative while on the bus trip.

While in Washington during the week of June 10-17, in addition to

meeting with Congressman from Illinois, students are treated to tours of historic sites, given the opportunity to make life-long friends and receive information to help determine career paths.

The future of the country depends on the youth of today getting involved.

You must be a junior in High School, and the child of a Monroe County Electric Cooperative member to be eligible.

To learn about this opportunity, contact your Guidance Counselor or Allan Masterson at Monroe County Electric Cooperative by calling 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433. You may also check out the Youth Tour through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) at www.aiec.coop for additional details.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Professional installation an important safety step

During long-term power outages many rely on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable electric generators has resulted in millions being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. Safe Electricity urges consumers to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

If installed and operated correctly, use of standby or portable electric generators poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

"Consult and discuss your purchase options with a reliable vendor, your electric supplier and contractors," advises Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "A qualified vendor or electric professional will know existing safety codes and the utility's safety requirements, and can help you select the best equipment for your needs and situation."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from "back feed." Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure

anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

"Safety for the operators and users of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized," says Solomon. "A qualified electrician should be consulted to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding requirements, circuit overload protections and local codes are met."

Some homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- **Read and follow all manufacturer's operating instructions to properly ground the generator.** Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- **Maintain adequate ventilation.** Generators emit carbon monoxide. Never operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- **Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.** This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.
- **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating



the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

- **Use proper extension cords.** Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- **Shut down generator properly.** Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- **Remember maintenance between uses.** It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.