



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Exceeding Expectations Every Day

“Exceeds expectations.”

My children always combed their grade-school report cards for EEs, which signified they had attained the coveted “exceeds expectations” rating in aspects of school life that couldn’t be assigned a letter grade.

As they grew, EEs turned into (we hoped) As and Bs. Yet I don’t think either of them lost that desire to exceed expectations.

At Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC), we also strive for EEs, every single day. We don’t want to do what you only expect us to do—provide you with affordable, safe, and reliable electric service. We want to go farther and do better, from providing superior member service to offering programs that help you save time and money.

MCEC lineworkers provide the public face of our mission to exceed expectations. They routinely work in rough weather and put in long hours. But they do it gladly, because they care about doing an exceptional job for you.

However, we have many people behind the scenes who also make our electric cooperative the best it can be. Our engineers continually explore new technologies to improve service reliability. Our finance department works to make bill pay easier and more convenient by providing such programs as E-Bill, Auto-Pay and Budget Billing. Our

member services representatives want to make sure you have a positive and satisfying experience when you call our office for help. They offer a free blower door/infrared home energy audit program that shows you where your home is losing energy and recommendations to make it more efficient. And because we’re a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the communities we serve and exceed expectations there, too. That means we aim to improve the quality of life by offering a school grant program; performing Live Line Electric Safety Demonstrations for area emergency personnel, civic organizations and schools; creating a “Lite for a Bite” food exchange for a CFL light bulb program, with the food being donated to area food pantries; and various monetary donations to worthy causes in the community including the American Cancer Society sponsored “Relay for Life.”

Whether it’s a power outage or energy audit, a billing question or community event, we’re working hard to achieve those EEs from you every day.

If you hear from us, asking for you to participate in a member satisfaction survey, please do so. This way, we’ll know if we’re meeting your expectations, exceeding them, or need to improve in a specific area.



Alan W. Wattles
**Across The
President’s
Desk**



Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Monday through Friday
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C & E Committee Named

Meeting set for Feb. 5th

A Credentials and Election committee (C & E) has been appointed and will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013** at the Monroe County Electric Cooperative meeting room in Waterloo. The committee will be validating all petitions turned in to run for the district seat. These persons, that have valid petitions, will be placed on the ballot for the cooperative's annual meeting,

to be elected to serve a three (3) year term as directors of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

The cooperative's 75th Annual Meeting of Members will be held **Monday, March 25, 2013, at the Hecker Community Center, Hecker, Illinois.**

Directors whose current terms expire and who are eligible for re-election are:

District 3

- **Joel Harres**
2612 Harres Lane
Columbia, IL 62236

District 7

- **Gary Gregson**
7368 State Route 156
Waterloo, IL 62298

District 8

- **Manlee Knobloch**
3321 LL Road, Fults, IL 62244

2013 Credentials and Election Committee

District 3

- **Thomas Keeven**
10536 Sandalwood Drive
Columbia, IL 62236
- **Glenn Woodcock**
9560 B Road
Valmeyer, IL 62295
- **Brad Landgraf**
741 Autumn Rise Lane
Columbia, IL 62236
- **Melvin Allscheid, Alt.**
8101 Andy Road
Waterloo, IL 62298

District 7

- **Ralph Eckart**
9153 Nike Road
New Athens, IL 62264
- **Edward Schaefer**
5961 L Road
Waterloo, IL 62298
- **Dale Haudrich**
7903 State Route 156
Waterloo, IL 62298

District 8

- **Glenn Voelker**
3146 LL Rd.,
Fults, IL 62244
- **Allyn Rohlffing**
5203 Bluff Rd.,
Valmeyer, IL 62295
- **Randy Scheibe**
621 KK Rd.,
Valmeyer, IL 62295
- **Randy Esker, Alt.**
3731 Fults
Fults, IL 62244

Co-op energy efficiency grant success generates repeat

In 2011 the electric cooperatives of Illinois received \$2.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan. Those funds were in turn distributed as rebates to co-op member-owners for energy efficiency projects. This investment paid real dividends and helped prime the pump for nearly ten times that in energy efficiency investments. Better yet, the energy efficiency improvements will multiply the savings for many, many years.

The HomE energy efficiency rebate program was so successful in creating new jobs for heating and air conditioning contractors, plumbers and insulation installers plus saving



"Richard Hollis of Columbia receives HomE rebate check for \$1500 from Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services"

energy for co-op member-owners that it is being repeated for a second but very limited time.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the first round of HomE rebates you now have a second

chance. HomE Lite rebates are available until funding runs out, or until June of this year.

HomE Lite Incentives Include:

- Geothermal system - \$1,500
- Air-Source Heat Pump (16 SEER or higher) - \$1,000
- Insulation and Weatherization - 50 percent of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250
- Commercial installations - \$500 per ton of capacity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for geothermal and air source heat pumps.
- Energy Audit by BPI certified auditor - \$300

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2013 Rate Increases and Your Electric Bill

Last fall we held three area member meetings in Millstadt, Hecker and Waterloo. At these meetings we discussed what the increases in our electric rates will look like. I would like to take the time now to refresh the information on what the difference between a bundled and unbundled electric bill is. Here at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC), each month we send you an electric bill for the past months usage of electricity and your usage is calculated through our rate schedule per the applicable rate that you are on and you receive it in the mail. The bill is very simple and direct as to what our charges are. A few years ago, our billing system we use, allowed us to break out the facility charge and energy charge on your bill. That caused quite a bit of confusion with our members, as it was believed that MCEC was charging a new item on the bill. This was not the case as it allowed MCEC to separate, to a certain degree, the fixed cost and energy cost.

So what are the components of the electric bill? Let's first talk about what goes into the electric bill. MCEC has monthly fixed costs, which are needed to operate on a daily basis. In a Cost of Service study, this is called the consumer related expense and it has salaries, insurances, debt, fuel and every day expenses generating these costs. This is generally shown as a fixed dollar amount, and for the residential consumer, we will charge **\$35.00 per**

month. The second expense associated with MCEC is the distribution demand related expense and it has the cost of wires, poles, equipment such as transformers, OCR's and regulators. This item is the required money to have the distribution system built to standards that maintain reliability and when you want a cooler or warmer house, do the laundry, cook dinner or anything that causes increased demand on the system, it will perform. This expense is at a kWh cost of approximately **2.0 cents per kWh.** Historically, billing rates have always had fixed cost in the energy blocks and this made the energy cost look to be higher than it is. Our goal is to decouple the distribution from energy.

MCEC has developed rates to do just that. We will not have a totally unbundled bill, where we line item every expense such as meter expense, transformer expense, distribution demand expense and on and on. But we will have it decoupled to separate the fixed cost and energy cost, so your monthly bill would look something

like the chart pictured below:

As you can see, the bill would look a little different, but as each consumer takes more control of their daily usage, it could mean substantial differences in their monthly cost. It also helps alleviate the pressure of capturing increasing costs to MCEC. MCEC can more quickly review distribution costs and make adjustments up or down if needed. The power cost will be set annually from the SIPC budget, if power cost goes up or down, it will be reflected in the WPCA cost line on your electric bill. This billing method would be done so that MCEC can more easily meet the financial ratios required by our lenders and be better stewards of the money given to us by you the member-owner.

Please continue to look in the *Illinois Country Living* magazine center section and your *Co-op Echoes* for additional information in regards to how MCEC is continuing to study the best ways to control costs and allow you choices in controlling your monthly electric bill.

Proposed billing structure		Current structure	
Consumer charge	\$35.00	Facility charge	\$27.00
Distribution Delivery charge- kWh usage	*0.020	Energy charge	first 2,000 kWh *0.105 over 2,000 kWh *0.0833
Energy charge – kWh usage * cost of power			
WPCA --		WPCA --	
Tax – kWh usage	*0.0032	Tax – kWh usage	*0.0032

Co-op energy efficiency grant success generates repeat (Continued from page 16b)

With the help of the first round of HomE funding Monroe County Electric Co-Operative member-owners performed a total of 80 heating/cooling upgrades and 33 made insulation and weatherization improvements. There were also 2 heat pump water heaters purchased.

Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services says, "We know a lot of members were unable to participate in the first HomE program for a variety of reasons. Any member who doesn't already qualify for low-income weatherization programs is eligible. Don't forget there are federal income

tax credits for some of these projects."

For more information call 939-7171, 1-800-757-7433 and extension 115. Or you can email at amasterson@mcec.org.



Youth to Washington Contest

Attention high school juniors!

Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) is inviting two high school juniors from each of the following schools to Youth Day in Springfield on April 17: Waterloo, Gibault, Valmeyer, Columbia, Dupu, Freeburg, New Athens, Red Bud and Belleville West. This event is sponsored by MCEC and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of the participants representing MCEC in Springfield, three will be selected to go on an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C. in June.

Youth Day (Springfield – Wednesday, April 17, 2012): The day's activities will include touring the State Capitol complex, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capitol and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Students will also have the opportunity to visit with legislators.

Youth to Washington Tour (June 14 – 21, 2013): The three local winners from Youth Day will join some 60 other Illinois students sponsored by Illinois cooperatives, and spend a week in Washington, D.C. visiting attractions such as the White House (possibly), U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington

National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Last year, our winners were Sarah Hempen of Columbia, Jimmy Quinones of Waterloo and Brianna Wolf of Freeburg.

If you are a high school junior and this opportunity interests you,

please discuss this with your guidance counselor today. Students do not have to be sons or daughters of MCEC members to attend Youth Day. An informative brochure will be available soon regarding MCEC's Youth to Washington program and can be downloaded from our website at www.mcec.org.



MCEC Line Outages - November 2012

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
11/02/12	3:05	2	Hickman Creek Ln	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
11/11/12	2:38	34	Country Side Ln	Trees, Other	Smithton
11/12/12	4:31	63	Kaskaskia Rd	Trees, Other	Fults
11/23/12	1:08	434	South Smithton	Power Supplier	New Athens
11/23/12	1:08	262	Rural Hecker	Power Supplier	New Athens
11/23/12	1:17	11	State Rt 159	Other, Deterioration	Poe
11/29/12	0:47	2	Albert Ln	Small Animals Or Birds	Millstadt