

# MONROE



*Electric News*

MONROE COUNTY  
ELECTRIC  
CO-OPERATIVE, INC.  
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS  
618-939-7171  
800-757-7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

31

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

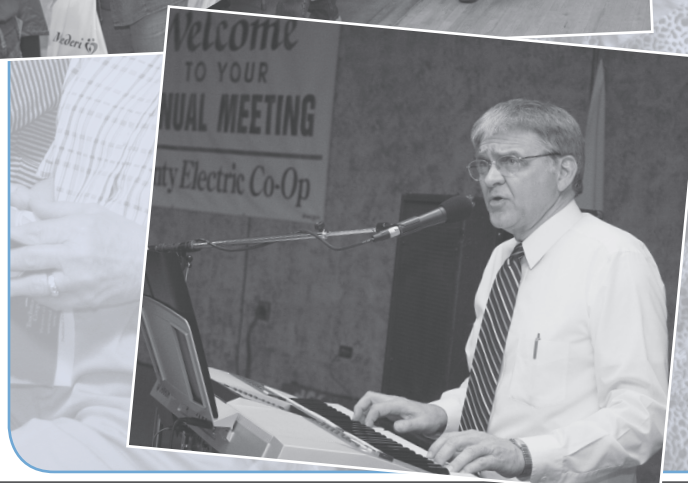
*Join us for our*

## 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Monday, March 22, 2010  
to be held at the Hecker Community Center  
in Hecker, Illinois

### Schedule of events:

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration begins Meal serving (fried chicken dinner) Health fair and business expo
5:30 p.m.	Entertainment provided by Duane Grapperhaus
7 p.m.	Official Business Meeting begins
8 p.m.	(Or after business meeting) Speaker for the evening, Rik Roberts
8:30 p.m.	(Or after speaker) Attendance prize winners announced





## Featured speaker for Annual Meeting – Rik Roberts

**B**orn in Lexington, Ky., Rik was instilled with down home values and the type of politeness and courtesy you get used to in a small town. Raising tobacco was the family tradition. Long hours on the farm inspired Rik to develop an active imagination and led him into comedy.

Now residing in Nashville, Tenn., Rik has become a favorite at The Improv, The Punchline, Funny Bone, The Stardome, Zanies – you name it. But, he prefers to share his comedy with hard working folks at banquets, corporate events and church groups.

He has appeared in videos on Great American Country & Country Music Television. He makes regular appearances on syndicated morning shows. His dedication to “clean” comedy earned him an episode of the Emmy award winning “Bananas Family Comedy” show. Shortly after that he was tapped to expand his Barney Fife Impression on “Comedy at Large.” He is a favorite on XM / SIRIUS RADIO’s Blue Collar Channel.

So come on out to your cooperative’s 72nd Annual Meeting of Members, share a meal with us and let Rik entertain you with his down-home humor.

## New employee at your cooperative

**C**hris Scott, from Sparta, Ill., was hired as your new Superintendent of Operations at the cooperative on Monday, Jan. 18, 2010.

Chris comes to the cooperative with nearly 18 years of work experience on the engineering and operation sides of the electric utility industry.

He has an electrical engineering degree from SIU-Carbondale where he graduated in 1991.

Chris worked the last seven months for J. F. Electric Contractors, based in Edwardsville, Ill. as an electrical engineer. He started his career with Central Illinois Power Services (CIPS) as a transmission engineer, then progressed to a distribution engineer and then to an Electrical Construction Supervisor at both Ameren CIPS and AmerenIP. He worked for CIPS for 14 years and then AmerenIP for 3 years.

Chris was born and raised south of Equality, Ill. near Harrisburg. He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter, Riley, who is 4 months old.

They belong to the Calvary Baptist Church in Sparta. They have been members for the past three years. Chris works with the high school youth group.



He enjoys spending as much time as he can with his family and likes to play golf.

They would like to relocate to the Red Bud area.

We welcome Chris, Linda and Riley to the cooperative!

### 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 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

## Four longtime employees retire from cooperative

**J**udy Scowden, Office Manager, is one of four employees at the cooperative that will be retiring early this year.

Judy's career with the cooperative lasted 43 years. She started as a Billing Clerk in 1967, full-time. She went to part-time while her children were young in 1974 and then came back full-time in 1983. Before working at the co-op, she held jobs at Mercantile Trust and Ameren in downtown St. Louis.

Judy has been married to her husband, Larry, for the past 42 years. Larry is retired from the postal service. They have two children, 7 grandchildren and two more on the way.

Judy's daughter is Chandra Stinson, married to Matt, and they live in a rural area close to Rogersville, Mo. They have five children: Aubrey, 10, Emmaline, 8, Graham, 6, Wil, 4, and Worth, 7 months. They also have plans to adopt a baby from Ethiopia later this year.

Her son is Jeremy Scowden, who is married to Kim, and they live in Bolivar, Mo. They have two children; Stella, 3, and Eisley, 1. Kim is expecting a baby in August.

Judy and Larry currently own 5 acres in rural Rogersville, Mo. and plan on building a home closer to her children and grandchildren.

When asked, what has changed the most since she has worked at the cooperative, Judy said, "It has to be the advance in technology, especially the way we send out billing to the members. I remember when we used a



billing machine that we had to manually insert a billing card for every meter and then type in the readings." Judy added, "Today, everything is more automated and this year we made on-line billing available that members can pay off the Internet at their convenience, night or day."

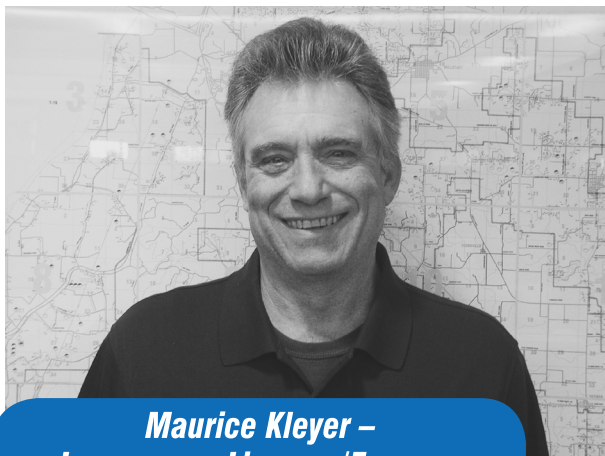
Judy said what she looks forward to the most is spending more time with her children and grandchildren, boating and fishing, traveling and more time for reading. She would also like to be more involved with mission work through her church. They will also be busy building a new home.

Judy said, "The co-op has been a great place to work and I will miss everyone."

**M**aurice, 60, has worked at the cooperative for the past 36 years. He was hired on Jan. 7, 1974. His last day was on Dec. 18, 2009.

Before coming to the cooperative, Maurice worked for HTC (or Harrisonville Telephone Co.) as a lineman. He worked there 2 ½ years.

He is a Navy veteran and was stationed in Vietnam



for 12 months working as an equipment operator.

Maurice has been married to his wife, Jeanne, for the past 38 years and they live in rural Waterloo. They have two daughters, Kimberly, 36, who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Kristin, 33, who lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

He enjoys traveling to visit his daughters and his interests/hobbies include: McKendree College basketball games, woodworking and crafts, gardening & the outdoors.

Maurice also likes spending time with his father, Willard, who is 83 years old, and lives near him.

Asked what has changed the most over the past 36 years at the cooperative, Maurice said, "It would have to be all the automation with computers, mapping, AMR (Automatic Meter Reading), automatic line switching and much better equipment to work with."

Maurice said, "I've really enjoyed working with the membership. They've been great. I've also loved working with the linemen and truly hope that they will stay safe in the future and work together. This can be a dangerous business at times."



■ Four longtime employees retire from cooperative (continued from 16c)

Stephen Candler, longtime truck driver/groundman for the cooperative will be retiring. His last work day will be February 12.

Steve has worked at the cooperative for 38 years. He was hired in May 1971.

He is a Vietnam Veteran having served in the U.S. Navy for three years on the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Hornet, CVS. His carrier was involved with the pickup of the Apollo 11 astronauts, who were the first to walk on the moon in 1969.

Steve and his wife, Anne, have been married for 39 years, and have lived on the co-op line all those years in a rural area just east of Maestown.

Steve and Anne have three daughters and son in laws, and a total of 7 grandchildren, and another grandchild due in June.

Angie is the oldest and is married to Dan Bruno. They have one son and two daughters; Patrick is 8, Ally is 3, and Maggie is 1.

Jennifer is married to Eric Seidler. They have two sons and a daughter; Griffin is 13, Logan is 9 and Sophie is 5.

Sarah is married to Dan Thieret. They have one son, Jack Henry, 2, and are expecting another child in June.

Outside of working at the cooperative, Steve raises Angus/Simmental cattle. He also enjoys riding his horse around the farm, and spending time with his family.



**Stephen Candler – Truck Driver/Groundman**

Asked what has changed the most since he started at the co-op, Steve said that when he started, the co-op didn't have any trenchers or underground equipment. We had to contract that work out. He also mentioned that we use bucket trucks more now than before for construction work.

Steve and Anne plan to do some traveling after he retires. Anne works for Luhr Bros., in Columbia, Ill.

Steve said, "Working at the co-op helped put my three daughters through college and pay for three weddings." He added, "There has never been a day go by that I've regretted coming into work. I've truly been blessed."



**Arlin Stechmesser – Journeyman Lineman**

Arlin "Stecky" Stechmesser is the next employee planning to retire. Stecky is a Journeyman Lineman for the co-op.

He started employment here in March of 1983. His last day will be February 19.

Stecky is an Air Force veteran.

Before coming to the cooperative, he worked at Harrisonville Telephone as a trouble-man for eight years. He then was hired by the city of Waterloo as an

Apprentice and then Journeyman Lineman for six years.

Stecky and his wife, Diane, have been married for 27 years and live in Waterloo. Diane is a second grade teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Columbia.

His father, Edwin, passed away last year, but his mother, Pearl, still lives in Waterloo.

He has two sons, Shane and Brad. Shane is married to Leanna and they live in Waterloo. They have a daughter, Olivia, 4. Brad is married to Christine and they live in Red Bud. They have two sons, Nikolas, 12 and Christian, 6. Stecky also has a stepdaughter, Amy Elder, who lives in Columbia.

His hobbies include golf, fishing, bowling and yard work.

Asked what has changed the most since he's been here: "It would have to be the technology of all the equipment. It is more sophisticated than it used to be," he said. He added, "The line trucks have also gotten much better which has helped us while working on outages or line construction."

Not one to do nothing, Stecky plans on being very active in retirement and is even hoping to find a part-time job.

"I've really enjoyed my time here working with the other guys and the office employees," he said. "It has always been a family-type atmosphere."