

Join us for our 74th Annual Meeting of Members



Monday, March 26, 2012
to be held at the Hecker Community Center
in Hecker, Ill.

Schedule of events:

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Registration begins Meal serving (fried chicken dinner) Health fair and business expo
5 p.m.	Entertainment provided by Duane Grapperhaus
6:30 p.m.	Official Business Meeting begins
7:30 p.m.	(Or after business meeting) Speaker for the evening, Dave Dugan
8 p.m.	(Or after speaker) Attendance prize winners announced

74th Annual Meeting — March 26, 2012

Monroe County Electric Cooperative's 74th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Monday, March 26 at the Hecker Community Center in Hecker, Ill. The business meeting is scheduled to begin at **6:30 p.m.** **Please note this on your calendars that our start times are moved up one half hour again over previous years.**

Registration and pre-meeting activities start at **4:30 p.m.** Duane Grapperhaus will again provide pre-meeting entertainment. A fried chicken plate will be served between **4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.** Guest speaker for the evening will be Dave Dugan, public speaker and humorist.

Various health-related services and organizations will have information booths during a Health Fair that will begin at **4:30 p.m.** There will be displays by Harrisonville Telephone Co. on their DSL wireless internet



system, Culligan Water Systems and a variety of health organizations for a health fair.

During the business meeting you will hear about projected rate increases, approve reports of directors and officers, elect three members to serve three-year terms to the cooperative's board of directors and act on other business that may come before the meeting.

Directors whose terms expire and are eligible for re-election are: Larry Haas, District 1; Larry Kraft, District 2 and Richard Liefer, District 9.

President/CEO Alan Wattles and Board Chairman Larry Kraft will each give reports on cooperative activity over the past year and give us a look into the future.

Registered members in attendance will receive a rechargeable/solar flashlight. Attendance prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mark your calendar and plan on joining us on March 26. Again, registration and pre-meeting activities begin at **4:30 p.m.** The business meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.** So come attend your Annual Meeting for an enjoyable evening of good food/music, information about your cooperative and some fun!



Dave Dugan to entertain at Annual Meeting



Before becoming a corporate comedian in-demand, Dave Dugan's unique observations earned him national television appearances on HBO, COMEDY CENTRAL, FOX, THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW, VH-1 and a host of other networks and shows.

He's also been a regular writer, contributor and guest on the na-

tionally syndicated BOB AND TOM SHOW for over 20 years where his Bob Newhart-like everyman victim style has been utilized time and time again!

So come on out to your 2012 Annual Meeting and hear Dave tell some stories that will entertain and make you laugh!



Heating buildings with cold air

Key Points

- All outside air down to absolute zero (-460°F) contains some heat.
- Air-source heat pumps extract heat from cool air and move it inside to provide space heating.
- Since heat pumps move heat rather than create it, they can have efficiencies greater than 100 percent.

An air-source heat pump is an energy-efficient heating and cooling technology that uses outside air as its heat source, providing year-round comfort in millions of U.S.

homes and businesses. With energy-efficiency ratings of well over 100 percent, this is not surprising. But how do heat pumps use cold air for heating, and how do you get energy efficiency of over 100 percent out of any device?

How heat pumps heat buildings

Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling. During the heating season, heat pumps move heat from the cold outdoors to the warmer indoor space. How does cold air provide heat? Hot and cold are relative terms. All outside air down to absolute zero (-460°F) contains

some heat. An air-source heat pump extracts some of this heat and moves it indoors to provide space heating. A heat pump system consists of a compressor and two coils made of copper tubing; one coil is located indoors and the other one is located outdoors. Liquid refrigerant in the outdoor coil absorbs heat from the air and evaporates into a gas. The indoor coil releases heat from the gas refrigerant as it condenses back into liquid. In the summer, this process is reversed as the heat pump provides cooling by moving warm inside air outdoors.

Source: <http://www.energystar.gov/>

Heat Pump Efficiency

Why do heat pumps have efficiencies greater than 100 percent? This is because heat pumps move or pump heat, rather than create it. A conventional furnace creates its own heat through fuel combustion. Combustion losses result in energy efficiency of less than 100 percent. While a furnace can achieve a high efficiency level, the amount of heat produced is ultimately bound by the amount of fuel input.

Since heat pumps are merely moving heat energy from one place to another, they are not bound by such restrictions. Heat pumps still use energy, just not nearly as much as the heat energy they provide. When properly installed, an air-source heat pump can deliver one-



and-a-half to three times more heat energy to a building than the electrical energy it consumes, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

This translates into energy efficiencies of 150 - 300 percent.

Air-source heat pumps lose efficiency and heating capacity as the outdoor air temperature decreases. As outdoor temperatures drop below 32 F, a less-efficient electric resistance or gas-fired backup system kicks in to provide extra heating capacity. For this reason, standard air-source heat pumps are not always the most cost-effective heating option in areas with cold winters. Cold-climate heat pump models have been developed by some manufacturers, but they are not yet widely available. In moderate climates, however, heat pumps can provide highly-efficient and economical space conditioning all year long.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Larry Kraft meets with Senator Mark Kirk at the AIEC

First-term Republican U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk made a scheduled stop at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield on Thursday, Jan. 19. He addressed the Board of Directors on issues related to energy. Here, Board Director Larry Kraft spoke directly to the visiting senator, representing your cooperative on the issues. Just a couple days after his visit, Kirk suffered a debilitating stroke, according to doctors. We are hopeful the senator makes a full recovery.



Blackout: Follow these safety tips

We depend on electricity to power our computers, lights, the coffee machine and the refrigerator at the flick of a switch. When a power failure strikes, we can feel helpless and frightened. Don't panic when the lights go out. Take these steps to keep everyone safe in the event of a blackout:

- **Hit the off switch.** Turn off and unplug your computers, microwave ovens, and other equipment to avoid damage due to power surges when electricity is restored.

- **Keep a light on.** Make sure that at least one light is in the on position so everyone can tell when the power comes back.
- **Close the refrigerator.** Keep food safe by keeping the refrigerator and freezer closed. Most food will remain at cool temperatures for 24 hours.
- **Rely on your landline.** Cordless phones may not operate during a power blackout, and cell phone reception could be unpredictable if the problem is widespread. Make sure your home or



workplace has at least one reliable landline so you can communicate with the outside world.

- **Know your emergency exits.** Have flashlights handy at home and battery backups in exit signs in the workplace so that exiting is safe. Keep hallways clear of clutter to prevent injuries in the dark.

MCEC Line Outages - January 2012

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
01/12/12	3:00	129	LL Rd	Vehicles or Machinery	Poe
01/12/12	1:39	20	Country Side Ln	Conductor Sag	Smithton
01/17/12	2:01	221	Lou Dell / Route 3	Lightning	N. Waterloo
01/17/12	0:54	20	Triple Lakes Rd	Other, Deterioration	East Carondelet