

Join us for our 75th Annual Meeting of Members



Monday, March 25, 2013
to be held at the Hecker Community Center
in Hecker, Ill.

Schedule of events:

4:30 p.m.	Registration begins
- 6 p.m.	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, Tim Cavanagh
8 p.m.	(Or after speaker) Attendance prize winners announced

75th Annual Meeting — March 25, 2013

Monroe County Electric Cooperative's 75th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Monday, March 25th, at the Hecker Community Center in Hecker, Illinois. The business meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

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 6:00 p.m. Guest speaker for the evening will be Tim Cavanagh, public speaker and humorist.

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

Harres, District 3; Gary Gregson, District 7, and Manlee Knobloch, District 8.

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

Registered members in attendance will receive a door prize. Attendance prizes will be drawn during the meeting and awarded at the conclusion.

So, mark your calendar and plan on joining us on March 25th. Again, registration and pre-meeting activities begin at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Come attend your Annual Meeting for an enjoyable evening of good food/music, information about your cooperative and some fun!



Tim Cavanagh to entertain at 75th Annual Meeting



Over a period of twenty five years, comedian Tim Cavanagh has built a career by being funny and clean. His show is an inventive combination of stand-up, funny songs and playful audience interaction.

Tim's unique, upbeat brand of comedy has been showcased on countless radio shows around the

country. With over 200 appearances on the nationally syndicated "Bob & Tom Show," Tim has been able to build a fan base in 150 radio markets coast to coast. On television, he has appeared on ABC-TV, Comedy Central, Showtime, WGN America and Comcast.

Grant money still available for energy efficiency projects

Members reaping benefits of HomE Lite program

A third round of funding for the HomE program, referred to as HomE Lite, is giving MCEC members the opportunity to fund home energy efficiency projects that will save them money in the long run.

The program was revitalized starting January 1st and includes new homes this time, that install geothermal heating systems or air-source heat pump systems with an energy rating of 16 SEER or above. This coupled with the cooperative's normal rebates of \$1000 and \$500

respectively, provides the most economical time to purchase these systems, ever. The geothermal system still qualifies for a 30% federal tax credit. A geothermal system is the most efficient heating/cooling system on the market today. The system can also provide the home owner with "free" hot water.

These grant funds will not last very long. If you are an existing or new cooperative member, and are considering any of the projects listed below, contact our office at



618-939-7171, ext. 115 for details to take advantage of this opportunity.

Note: New homes are not eligible for the insulation grants.

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

MCEC Line Outages - January 2013

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
01/01/13	3:30	5	J Rd/Rt 156	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
01/04/13	2:42	30	B Rd/Levee Rd	Other, Deterioration	Fountain
01/13/13	1:36	102	Gall Rd/ Cedar Ridge Ln	Distribution	N. Waterloo
01/21/13	0:55	63	Maple Leaf Subdivision	Trees, Other	New Athens
01/22/13	7:41	8	G Rd	Other, Deterioration	Fults
01/26/13	1:39	8	Bluff Rd	Trees, Other	Fountain
01/27/13	1:22	205	Smithton Area	Other, Faulty Equipment	Smithton
01/30/13	2:50	138	Beck Rd	Power Supplier	New Athens

Protect against power surges

Power surges are responsible for millions of dollars of property damage each year, and, over time, they can cause cumulative damage while decreasing the lifespan of TVs, computers, stereo equipment, and anything else plugged into a wall outlet. Being educated is the key to choosing the best surge protection for your home.

How does a power surge cause damage?

First, what is a surge?

“A surge is a boost in the electrical charge over a power line,” explains Allan Masterson, director of member services. “This can be caused by lightning, but it’s more commonly caused by motor-driven electrical devices, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, that require a lot of energy for starting and stopping compressors. Some surges can also be caused by faulty wiring.”

Frequent, small power surges tend to shorten the life of home appliances and electronics. “Power surges come in all shapes and sizes—the most extreme case being a lightning strike because it can destroy equipment and sometimes set your house on fire,” comments Alan Shedd, director of residential & commercial energy programs for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the national brand for America’s electric cooperatives. “But less severe power surges are rooted in hundreds of different causes.”

He continues: “The severity of a surge depends not only on the voltage and current involved but how long the event lasts. Most surges are very short in duration. It’s important for people to realize that surges can

happen through any connection on your equipment. If there is a wire connected to your equipment, then it provides a path for a surge.”

How can I protect my property?

A surge protection device mounted at your home’s main electrical panel or the base of your electric meter protects equipment inside your house or business from surges coming through “ports of entry,” such as an outside electric, telephone, and cable TV or satellite dish line.

Point-of-use surge protection devices do not suppress or arrest a surge but divert it to ground. They’re designed to protect your sensitive electronic appliances, like a computer, and resemble a regular plug strip. However, don’t assume your plug strip offers surge protection unless it specifically says so. You can also install special electrical outlets that offer surge protection, which can be helpful in places like kitchen countertops.

“My computer is plugged into an uninterruptable power supply with surge protection,” Shedd notes. “We had a lightning strike, and a surge came in over the phone line. But the surge protector stopped it.”

One of the most effective ways to protect your property is a two-tiered approach. A service entrance surge protection device reduces power surges to a lower level that protects large appliances, such as your stove or clothes dryer, while point-of-use



*Some surge protection devices can be mounted at the base of your electric meter or main electrical panel. Others resemble a simple power strip that you plug into the wall and then plug your appliance or electrical device into the strip. But remember—your power strip doesn’t provide surge protection unless it specifically says so.
Source: Jim Dulle*

surge protectors defend your sensitive electronics.

Remember to be cautious when shopping for surge protection equipment. “Some items claim that they can save energy, and these claims are generally false,” Shedd concludes. “Surge protection is a valuable tool for protecting your home or business but not for saving energy.”

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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