



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

### Join us for our 76th Annual Meeting of Members



**Monday, March 24, 2014**  
**to be held at the Hecker Community Center**  
**in Hecker, Ill.**

#### Schedule of events:

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

# 76th Annual Meeting – March 24, 2014

**M**onroe County Electric Co-Operative's 76th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Monday, March 24th, 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 Rex Havens, 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, Culligan/Schaefer Water Systems and a



variety of health organizations for a health fair.

During the business meeting, you will hear about what happened in 2013, 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:

George Obernagel, District 4; Richard Neff, District 5, and Ross Mueller, District 6.

President/CEO Alan Wattles and Board Chairman Larry Kraft will each give reports on cooperative activity over the past year and share their views on what lies ahead in 2014.

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

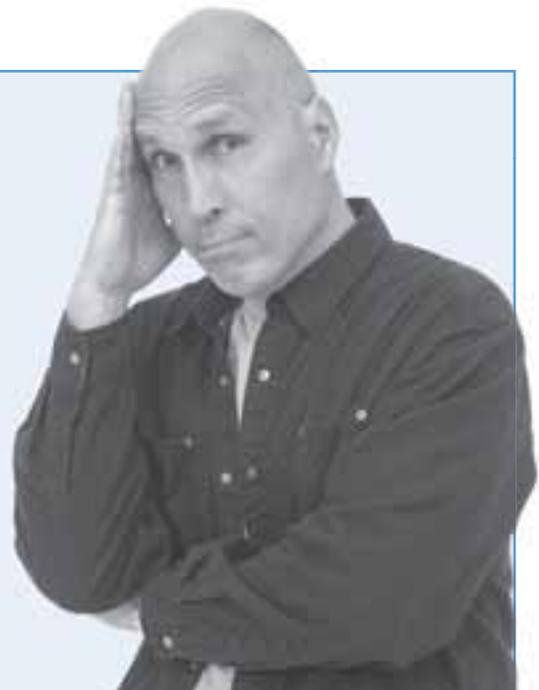
So, mark your calendar and plan on joining us on March 24th. Again, registration and pre-meeting activities begin at **4:30 p.m.** The business meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.**

Come attend your Annual Meeting for an enjoyable evening of good food/music, information about your cooperative and some fun!

## Rex Havens to entertain at Annual Meeting

**Rex Havens has been a major voice on the standup comedy scene for over 20 years, has created three comedy CDs as well as his best-selling book, "Everything I Needed To Know I Learned From My Wife!"**

**He's appeared on HBO, Showtime, Comedy Central, Comic Relief and "Bob & Tom." He has toured with and opened for all four stars of the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, and his CDs play regularly on Sirius/XM radio.**



### 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 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433



## Upgrade coming soon to our E-bill site

Beginning this month, Monroe County Electric Cooperative's E-bill website will have a new look for those who pay their electric bills on-line through our E-bill system. The new program we are upgrading to through our data processing company, National Information Solutions Cooperative, (NISC), is called **SmartHub**.

### WITH **SmartHub** YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Still pay your bill on-line
- Check your electric usage
- Contact our office
- Set custom alerts for your energy usage

### ■ Check our news feed

With **SmartHub**, the power of data can be in your hands through convenient account management and detailed usage information. **SmartHub**, which is a web application, will also have a free smartphone application as well, for Android and iOS devices.

It will allow you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your PC or mobile device. The two-way communication available with **SmartHub** allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know

about special offers, programs, events and more.

Members currently on our E-bill payment system will be converted over to our new **SmartHub** application. It will look very similar to the E-bill login screen, but will have a wider array of capabilities. You will use the same e-mail and password that you have always used, but the login screen will look a bit different with the **SmartHub** logo along with the cooperative logo.

Look for a bill insert as a reminder when the system is ready to go on-line. Check our homepage at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org) for more information as well.

## MCEC Line Outages - January 2014

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
01/01/14	2:04	75	Five Forks Rd	Other, Deterioration	New Athens
01/05/14	7:10	13	Deer Run Rd	Trees And Ice	New Athens
01/05/14	6:16	186	Ahne Rd/Monroe City	Maintenance	Waterloo
01/05/14	1:31	8	Altes Rd	Maintenance	Fults
01/06/14	2:23	11	Outlet Rd	Ice, Sleet, Frost	Fults
01/07/14	0:45	13	Deer Run Rd	Maintenance	New Athens
01/08/14	0:14	46	Black Jack Rd	Maintenance	Poe
01/09/14	2:40	20	Levee Rd/Berger Rd	Other, Deterioration	Fountain
01/11/14	2:17	5	Dobbin Hill Ln	Trees, Other	Fults
01/21/14	3:07	177	Fountain	Other, Deterioration	Fountain
01/21/14	0:28	89	Ahne Rd/Monroe City	Maintenance	Waterloo
01/29/14	0:10	34	Country Side Ln	Maintenance	Smithton
01/30/14	0:40	3	S Fork Rd	Trees, Other	Poe

## Look up and live

### Remember to allow plenty of clearance between grain bins and electric lines.

By Ken Macken, Manager of Safety and Loss Control, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

As the Safety Instructor for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, one of the things I really enjoy about my job is being able to travel over the entire state and see many beautiful sights. Some of my favorite sights are the great farms peppered throughout the state. From dairy farms to grain farms, we have some of the best-looking farms right here in Illinois.

Over the years, farm grain storage has increased. And as a safety instructor, I can't help but notice grain bins that are close to the road and the power lines serving these farms. I see the tall PTO-driven grain augers standing ready and I think of those who have been injured or killed when an auger was moved into an overhead line during the rush of harvest time. I don't like thinking about these accidents as I drive these beautiful rural scenes. I guess these thoughts are an occupational hazard I must endure.

Accidents, however, can be prevented. Allow me to share some facts about grain bins, augers, conveyers, dump trucks, etc. Share them with a friend or a family member

involved in moving grain. You might just save their life.

Over the past several years, dozens of deaths and serious injuries have occurred on farms when grain augers or dump trucks have come into contact with overhead energized electric lines. Look up and observe the areas around your grain bins. What do you see? Are there power lines nearby? Are you planning on building more bins in the near future?

If you are planning the construction of any new grain bins, be sure to take the placement of existing power lines into account and contact your local electric cooperative BEFORE your plans are finalized. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) contains regulations concerning electric lines near grain bins. There can even be financial penalties for violating NESC codes.

If you, or a contractor, construct a grain bin too close to power lines, your electric cooperative will have to re-align the design of the electrical system to make sure all NESC codes are followed. This can cost you and your cooperative money

that could have been saved. The cooperative cannot provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing line that does not meet the clearance requirement. If you have any questions, call your electric cooperative. They will be more than happy to help you with your building plans.

It is important that you understand the proper clearances for electric lines around your grain bins. The NESC specifies distances that power lines must be from the loading and non-loading sides of your bins. The diagram shows recommended distances to place new grain bins from power lines. Contact your cooperative so that exact clearances can be determined from the NESC for your specific situation.

Also, consider the route of trucks and your equipment around your grain bins. What is highest implement or dump truck situation that will happen around those bins and electric lines? Is everything out of harm's way, both currently and in the future?

