


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Join us for our 77th Annual Meeting of Members

This year, we have two individuals vying for the District 1 position – current board member, Larry Haas of rural Millstadt and Richard Hollis of rural Columbia.



Larry A. Haas lives north of Millstadt and is seeking his 14th three year term as a director of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. He

has been the only MCEC director to chaperone the Illinois Youth to Washington bus trip.

Besides being a member of MCEC, he was active in community organizations and organized a community survey for the Millstadt Jaycees resulting in building the Millstadt swimming pool. Haas also intervened in state wide telephone rate cases before the Illinois Commerce Commission and was granted rights to cross examine company witnesses and offer alternate solutions to rate and service matters. One case resulted in calls to Belleville and Columbia included in basic phone service to Millstadt.

Haas has a master's degree in engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He held professional engineering and real estate broker licenses in Illinois and Missouri.

After retiring from Boeing-St. Louis, Haas programmed flight planning systems for Scott AFB. His last industrial activity was serving on a four person senior design and launch approval team for NASA Shuttle.

He presently heads Concordia Water Co-op. He has obtained the only Illinois grant to aid in construction of the water system (worth up to

\$1,400,000). The Water Co-op uses his Boeing expertise on aircraft and spacecraft environmental and fluid systems.

Haas is the only MCEC board member whose work experience has been a 40 hour/week and he is uniquely qualified to protect and champion consumer rights.



Richard Hollis, of rural Columbia, is seeking his first term to the board of directors representing district 1 of Monroe County Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Mr. Hollis serves as Senior Vice President of Organizational Development for Rabo AgriFinance, a division of Rabobank Group. Rabo AgriFinance is a leading provider of financial services for agricultural

producers and agribusinesses in the United States.

Mr. Hollis' duties at Rabo AgriFinance include supervision of the Training and Development, Human Resources, Marketing and Internal Communication departments. He leads company management development and succession planning efforts and oversees all aspects of employee integration and company culture. He also serves as a member of the Rabo AgriFinance executive management team, and reports directly to CEO Neil Dobbin.

Prior to joining Rabo AgriFinance, Mr. Hollis spent 16 years in many different management positions with Land O'lakes / Purina.

Mr. Hollis and his wife Gail have lived in rural Columbia since 2002. They have two boys, Zac who is an Ag. Engineering student at

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Monday, March 23, 2015
The meeting will 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. | Music entertainment provided by Duane Grapperhaus |
| 6:30 p.m. | Official Business Meeting begins Election for District 1 between Larry Haas & Richard Hollis |
| 7:30 p.m. | (Or after business meeting) Entertainment speaker for the evening, Johnny Kavanaugh |
| 8 p.m. | (Or after speaker) Attendance prize winners announced |

77th Annual Meeting – March 23, 2015

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's 77th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Monday, March 23rd, 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.** The guest speaker for the evening will be Johnny Kavanaugh, 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/Schaefer Water Systems and a variety of health organizations for a health fair.

During the business meeting, you will hear about what happened in 2014, 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,



*President/CEO
Alan Wattles*



*Board Chairman
Larry Kraft*

District 2, and Richard Liefer, District 9.

This year, we have two individuals vying for the District 1 position – current board member, Larry Haas of rural Millstadt and Richard Hollis of rural Columbia.

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 2015.

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 23rd. 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!

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Rose-Hulman in Indiana and Tyler who is a freshman at Columbia High School.

Mr. Hollis graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business & Education. He serves on the Board of

Directors for Western Illinois University and previously served on the Board of Directors for the National FFA Organization in Indianapolis. He is also active in the Illinois Beef Cattle Association and local Illinois 4-H and FFA programs.

Johnny Kavanaugh to speak at annual meeting

Johnny has always been a comedy junkie. Whether he was glued to the television watching classic movies of the Marx Bros, Abbott & Costello or the Three Stooges, he loved to laugh.



He started off with the open mic shows at the world famous Westport Funny Bone in St. Louis. Eventually, he made his way into emcee work around the region, then as a full-time comedian seven years later. Johnny has also starred in dozens of commercials and in several films. Come out and enjoy his funny experiences while growing up during an energy packed evening of entertainment!

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433



Like the Co-op's Facebook Page to Stay Better Informed

Are you a Facebook user? If so, please visit the co-op's page and click Like. We will be using the page to keep members up-to-date on co-op news, outages, and sharing useful information on ways to save.

Facebook offers us a way to show members day-to-day activities at the co-op. We can share pictures and even videos of your employees on the job.

During large outages, Facebook gives us a way to quickly update members with where we are at on restoring power. If a member or a friend has a smartphone, he or she can go to our page to see updates. We will still be keeping members informed through the local media. However, members will find more information on our website and Facebook.

If you or a relative are on Facebook, make sure to visit our page at facebook.com/monroecountyelectric and click Like!



Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/monroecountyelectric

*Our office will be closed for
Good Friday on April 3, 2015.*



MCEC line outages - January 2015

| Date | Duration | # Out | Location | Cause Desc | Substation |
|----------|----------|-------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| 01/03/15 | 1:10 | 5 | Douglas Rd | Small Animals or Birds | Smithton |
| 01/18/15 | 1:14 | 4 | Crook Rd | Small Animals or Birds | Poe |

Dining in the Dark

Food safety tips during a power outage

Storm-induced power outages can take you by surprise. If you've lost power and have a refrigerator full of food, make sure time and temperatures are on your side.

If your home's power is interrupted for two hours or less, losing perishable foods shouldn't be a concern. When an outage is prolonged, it's time to decide when to save and when to toss food away.

A digital quick-response thermometer can be one of the most useful tools you can wield in your battle to preserve food. The gadget checks the internal temperature of food, ensuring items are cold enough to eat safely.

Use these food safety tips to help you minimize food loss and reduce the risk of foodborne illness:

Refrigerated Food

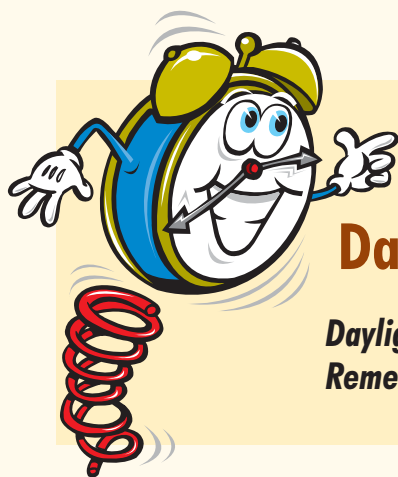
- Keep refrigerator doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours.
- If food (especially meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) has been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours, or has an unusual odor, texture, or color, get rid of it. Remember the American Red Cross food safety rule: "When in doubt, throw it out."

- Never taste food to determine its safety or rely on appearance or odor.
- Use perishable foods first, then frozen food.
- To keep perishable food cold, place them in a refrigerator or cooler and cover with ice.

Frozen Food

- A full freezer stays colder longer. Freeze containers of water to help keep food cold in the freezer. If your water supply runs out, melting ice can supply drinking water.
- If you keep the door closed, a full freezer keeps the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, is partially thawed, and has ice crystals on it, you can safely re-freeze it.
- Always discard frozen or perishable food items that have come into contact with raw meat juices.

Find more tips at FoodSafety.gov.



Daylight savings time

**Daylight savings time begins March 8th.
Remember to spring ahead one hour.**



Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out?
Store these items at home in case of an outage.



□ Water

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



□ Tools

Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.



□ Food

Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.



□ First Aid, Medicine

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.



□ Documents

Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

Learn more at www.Ready.gov.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency