



## Highlights of 74th Annual Meeting of Members in Hecker



Alan W. Wattles

### Across The President's Desk

Members of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative were updated on the organization's financial condition, money saving programs for members, new construction and maintenance during their Annual Meeting of Members held Monday, March 26, at the Hecker Community Center.

In 2011 Monroe County Electric continued to work on improving the power quality and reliability of its electric system. The cooperatives overall outage time per member averaged 587.2 minutes per outage, up from 194.6 minutes per outage the previous year. The reliability rate for the cooperative was 99.8 percent in 2011. The line personnel replaced 21,000 feet of underground primary cable; 56,000 feet of overhead conductor; 240 lightning arresters; 172 cutout switches; 110 crossarms; 281 poles; 82 OCR breakers; 248 meters; and 148 transformers. They installed 56 new services and installed 34 service capacity upgrades. CEO/President, Alan Wattles said, "As you can see, we continue to place significant emphasis on maintaining





the reliability of our system.”

Rates and power cost were also topics of discussion. Wattles said, “We had about a 1 percent decrease from 2010, milder weather at the last half of the year was the driving force for the lower sales to members. Power purchases for the 12 months in 2011 was lower, as well, than in 2010. MCEC purchased just over 123 million kWh from SIPC, which was approximately 1.5 percent less than 2010.”

Treasurer, Joel Harres, reported that the co-op had margins of \$621,540. MCEC made a general retirement in 2011 of capital credits for the year of 1985 and half of 1986 in the amount of \$248,197 and also distributed \$72,757 to estates of deceased members on a discounted basis. The Coop just made a general retirement for the second half of 1986 and all of 1987, plus 10 percent of 2011 margins totaling \$334,338. Capital credits are funds remaining after a member-owned co-op’s financial obligations are met

for the year. This is a differentiating factor between member-owned co-ops and investor-owned utilities.

Wattles said, “This continues to be part of the strategic plan by the board to get back to a 20-year cycle on our retirements. At the end of 2011, the co-op had returned a total of \$3,844,236 in capital credits over all.”

Rate changes are projected for 2013. “A rough estimate for the average residential consumer looks like this,” said Wattles, “A consumer charge in the range of \$33 to \$36, all kWh used at approximately 2 cents for the distribution delivery charge and energy cost of an estimated 8.17 cents per kWh equals roughly a \$5 per month increase for the average user.” The board of directors, staff and the engineering consultant are continuing to work on the rates for the commercial and demand accounts.

Monroe County Electric offers diversified programs and services needed by its member-owners. Energy efficiency has become increasingly important as the price of electricity continues to increase due to higher coal prices and more stringent regulatory compliance.

One of the programs that MCEC has been instrumental in is the Concordia Water Cooperative. According to Board Chair, Larry Kraft, “CWC is being organized to soon become an independent, not-for-profit business to supply potable water to the 180 Millstadt area. It’s

making steady progress, and we hope to put the project out for bid in the next few months.” The members of the MCEC board leading the CWC efforts include: Larry Haas, Joel Harres, Ross Mueller and Larry Kraft.

The co-op continues to offer energy audits for members as well as discounts at local and national stores through the Touchstone Energy co-op connection card program, a service that is provided at no cost to by the cooperative. In addition, members can log on at [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) to see how making simple changes can result in big energy savings.

During the meeting Richard Liefer of Red Bud, representing District 9, Larry Haas of Belleville, representing District 1 and Larry Kraft of Smithton, representing District 2 were re-elected to the co-op’s board of directors.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 720 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Monroe County Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 7,051 members over 1,203 miles of line in parts of Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties. For more information visit [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org).

## MCEC Line Outages – March 2012

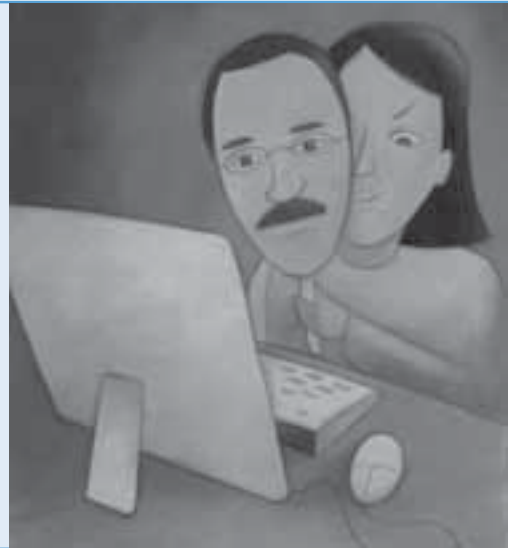
Date	# Out	Duration	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
03/17/12	6	1:33	Schubert Ln	Lightning	East Carondelet
03/17/12	25	0:45	Turner Hall Rd	Lightning	Smithton
03/17/12	4	1:24	Black Quarter Rd	Lightning	New Athens
03/23/12	16	1:18	Lake of the Woods Subdv	Vehicles or Machinery	Waterloo

## Don't Fall for Jury Duty Scam

**T**here is a new phone identity theft scam going on that we want to alert everyone about. The caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He may say you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You may say that you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"- your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number.

This is when you should hang up the phone. Chances are good that this is a scam.

Jury scams have been around for years, but we have seen a resurgence in recent months affecting at least eleven states included Illinois. Don't be their next victim.



## Reflective address signs now available through the Waterloo Fire Department

**T**he Waterloo Fire Department is now offering reflective address signs for anyone that would like to make their address more visible to emergency responders.

You can get a 6- x 18-inch blue or green reflective sign made either vertically or horizontally and either one or two sided. These signs can be put on a mailbox or at the end of your driveway to help emergency responders find your home easier.

To get a reflective address sign for \$10, call the Waterloo Firehouse at 939-8009 or e-mail a request to [wfd@htc.net](mailto:wfd@htc.net) and someone will contact you to take your order.



Remember Mom on

*Mother's  
Day*

May 13th



# Co-op Connections Card

Are you still using your Co-op Connections Card? Don't forget to try it at the pharmacy. Our members saved more than \$2200 (63%) on prescriptions in January and February alone! You can also find deals at local shops and restaurants – see the listing of participating businesses on our website at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org).



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

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