



76th Annual Meeting Highlights



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative had a full house at its 76th Annual Meeting of Members on Monday, March 24, 2014 at the Hecker Community Center.

Board Chairman Larry Kraft explained to members the importance of making their voices heard in Washington, D.C., in regard to the EPA's plan to tax carbon emissions on new and existing coal-powered plants. Kraft encouraged everyone to fill out action.coop cards in order to register their concerns about the EPA's plan and the effect it would have on keeping their electric service reliable and affordable.

President/CEO Alan Wattles reported that sales for 2013 were up 3.0 percent over 2012 and planned system improvements are underway including a new substation in the Smithton area. Wattles also told members the IVUE SmartHub system, which allows them to download an app, check electric usage and pay electric bills, is now active. An automated phone system to give members direct options when calling in is expected to be active in late April or early May.

"I am happy to announce that no rate increase is planned for 2014,"



Monroe County Electric Co-Operative members re-elected three board members during their 76th Annual Meeting. Shown (l-r) with MCEC President/CEO Alan Wattles are: Richard Neff of Belleville, George Obernagel of Waterloo and Ross Mueller of Fults.

Wattles said. "Our main goal is to continue keeping Monroe County Electric financially strong and stable for the future."

The not-for-profit cooperative had positive margins of \$793,038, which were offset by negative margins from the previous year of \$424,702. The balance of \$368,336 was allocated to the members as patronage capital. The cooperative plans to make a general retirement of \$325,000 in patronage capital later this year. In 2013, it made a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$407,468, and also distributed, on a discounted basis, \$82,588 to estates of deceased members, and members who moved. The board of directors continue the retirement of capital credits as part its strategic plan to differentiate it from municipal and investor-owned utilities.

In other business, members re-elected three to the cooperative's board of directors. They are: George Obernagel of Waterloo, District 4;

Richard Neff of Smithton, District 5; and Ross Mueller of Fults, District 6.

Special recognition was also given to two longtime cooperative employees. Serviceman Ronnie Schultheis is retiring in May after 41 years of service and Debbie Bergman, Administrative Assistant to the President, will retire in late 2014 after 44 years of service to the cooperative and its members.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of 750 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 7,130 meters over 1,205 miles of line in parts of Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties. For more information visit www.mcec.org.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Tamper resistant receptacles (TRR's)

What are tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs)?

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been



The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)

required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home

construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

TRRs by the Numbers

- Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.
- It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles.
- Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50¢ more than a traditional receptacle.
- Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

For more information on TRRS, visit www.esfi.org.

MCEC Line Outages - March 2014

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
03/01/14	1:33	12	Gilmore Lake Estates	Small animals or birds	Millstadt
03/08/14	1:56	6	Regtown Rd	Other, deterioration	Fults
03/12/14	3:34	179	Fountain/Valmeyer Area	Other, deterioration	Fountain
03/15/14	3:32	211	East Carondelet Area	Other, deterioration	East Carondelet
03/18/14	2:26	33	Brickey Rd	No cause code	Poe
03/28/14	1:01	34	Eagle Cliffs Estates	Small animals or birds	Fountain

SmartHub is here



Make Informed Choices

Log in to your online Monroe County Electric Co-Operative account and you'll notice a more powerful, efficient, and streamlined experience designed to help you make smarter energy choices. Utilizing SmartHub technology, co-op members can now utilize these great benefits:

- View your electric usage down to the hour
- See how temperature affects heating & cooling use
- Compare usage between months with temp. data
- Set usage markers, thresholds and alerts
- Receive bill reminders
- Report outages

Log On Today!

To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "e-bill" on the upper right side at www.mcec.org and log in with your same email address and password. Setting up a new online account is quick and simple, too.

Free Mobile Apps

To download the free mobile apps for Apple or Android devices, search for "smarthub" in your app store.



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Area juniors visit Springfield at Youth Day



Left to right: Representative Jerry Costello, Allyson Biehl; Ron Birkner, chaperone; Garrett Kapelski; Hannah Finnerty; Madeline Graham; Jennifer Probst; Nolan Maue; Wyatt Hesper; Griffin Seidler; Clara Riechmann; Emily Johansson; Aleen Dutkanych; Emily Hartmann; Allan Masterson, chaperone and Andrew Jokerst.

Thirteen area juniors visited Springfield for the Cooperative Youth Day. The students were all competing for the chance to be sponsored by your cooperative for all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The group of thirteen students were the winning representatives from area high schools. Each high school was asked to pick their top two students competing in the contest. Each winner got the chance to attend our “Youth Day in Springfield”. In the morning, they visited the Illinois State Museum and the state capitol where they met with their legislators, state representative, Jerry Costello, and state senator, David Luechtefeld. They also met with Secretary of State Jesse White.

In the afternoon, the students visited the Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln museum. The winners from each school were:

Student	High School
Jennifer Probst	Waterloo
Hannah Finnerty	Waterloo
Griffin Seidler	Valmeyer
Clara Riechmann	Valmeyer
Andrew Jokerst	Red Bud
Allyson Biehl	Red Bud
Nolan Maue	Freeburg
Emily Hartmann	Freeburg
Aleen Dutkanych	New Athens
Wyatt Hesper	New Athens
Emily Johansson	Belleville West
Madeline Graham	Belleville West
Garrett Kapelski	Queen of Holy Saints H.S.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs.

LED stands for “light emitting diode.” Recent advancements have made them a viable alternative. LED bulbs are more expensive, but they’re also more durable. They use far less electricity than both CFLs and incandescent bulbs so they cost less to operate, and some models claim to last up to 50,000 hours. You can even find models designed to work with special new dimmer switches.

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