


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Annual Meeting of Members at cooperative headquarters – June 11th

Pre-meeting activities include fun for the kids, good food and music

The day is almost here for Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's 78th annual meeting of members to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016. This year's meeting will be combined with our Member Appreciation Day and held at our cooperative headquarters, located two miles south of Waterloo.

Please make sure to bring your registration card from the back of your annual meeting notice. It is bar-coded so that we can scan it to register you. Each registered membership will receive a Pro Glo lighted extension cord as a door prize for attending. This registration card will then be entered in a drawing for cash prizes, 25 - \$25 each announced throughout the day (members do not have to be present to

win) and also a "grand prize" of \$100 at the end of the business meeting (must be present to win).

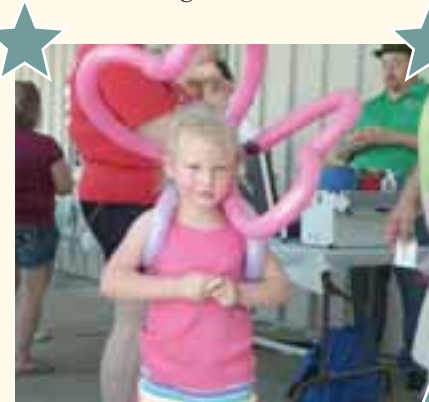
We will have a few health care vendors set up for information and blood pressure checks.

Fun activities from our past Member Appreciation Days will be available again for the children such as two bounce houses, balloon artists, face painting and a pole display they can have their picture taken on in lineman gear.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. and a smoked pork chop meal will be served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Music entertainment will again be provided by Duane Grapperhaus on the organ. Attendance prizes will be announced throughout the morning and early

afternoon. The business meeting will be begin at 1:30 p.m. Children's activities will conclude just prior to the beginning of the business meeting.

We hope to see you Saturday, June 11, 2016 at the **cooperative headquarters** for our Cooperative's 78th Annual Meeting of Members!



What's in it for "we?"

By Adam Schwartz

One of the most attractive features of cooperatives is that we answer the popular question, "What's in it for me?" with "What's in it for we!" Cooperatives are formed when the market fails to offer a good or service, with decent quality, at an affordable price. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC) was formed in 1938 because, when investor-owned utilities realized there was not enough profit to be made in our community, they refused to offer electricity.

The founding members of MCEC went door to door to collect \$5 in order to raise a portion of the original investment the co-op needed. Those "go-getters" realized the only way to get electricity for me was to get it for we, the whole community.

Cooperative ownership is in the hands of the people who use the co-op's goods and the services (not investors), so not only do co-ops start out answering the question of "What's in it for we?" – they continue to answer that question for as

long as they exist.

These days, we often hear about companies that abandon their local communities and move overseas in search of cheaper labor. This negatively impacts the community through job loss, decline in housing values and school closures. Because local residents own a majority of cooperatives, they are less likely to leave their community. In fact, it would be impossible for MCEC to leave the Waterloo area. The co-op is a critical part of what makes the community a community.

The way co-ops continue to answer the question, "What's in it for we?" is critical to their survival. It is imperative that we keep you – our members – as the primary focus.

Keeping rates as low as possible is one major part of that focus, but ensuring that we provide real value as your trusted energy advisor is also extremely important.

By maintaining that focus with your help and support, we will continue to be able to serve the "me" and the "we" in our community long into the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop



Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128,

Waterloo, Illinois 62298

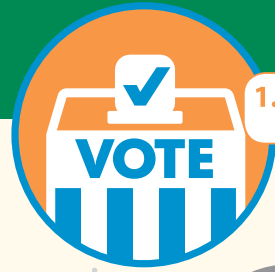
618-939-7171

Office hours: Monday through

Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

800-757-7433

HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



1. Member-owners elect board directors.

2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.

3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.



6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.

MCEC line outages - April 2016

| Date | Duration | # Out | Location | Cause Desc | Substation |
|----------|----------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 04/08/16 | 1:53 | 32 | Press Rd | Other, Faulty Equipment | Smithton |
| 04/17/16 | 1:31 | 2 | Cliff Dr | Small Animals Or Birds | East Carondelet |
| 04/21/16 | 0:47 | 5 | Autumn Dr | Small Animals Or Birds | Millstadt |
| 04/26/16 | 6:11 | 48 | Lake Ronnie | Tree | Waterloo |
| 04/28/16 | 0:10 | 458 | New Athens Area | Maintenance | New Athens |
| 04/30/16 | 1:41 | 63 | Gilmore Lakes | Lightning | Millstadt |
| 04/30/16 | 2:04 | 65 | Kaskaskia Rd | Lightning | Fults |
| 04/30/16 | 1:24 | 2 | LL Rd | Lightning | Poe |

ELECTRIC CO-OPS WERE CONSTRUCTED WITH LINES, POLES AND THE FOOLHARDY NOTION THAT WE ALL PROSPER BY HELPING EACH OTHER.



It seems obvious in retrospect, but there was a time when getting electricity outside of the city limits wasn't a given. Today, the spirit of community that co-ops were built upon continues to thrive. And as members we can all lend a hand by saving energy. Learn how at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM