

Members encouraged to attend area meetings in November



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Our annual area member meetings have been scheduled for three locations in the cooperative service territory during November. These meetings will give you an opportunity to learn about your cooperative, and a chance to visit with cooperative personnel, friends and neighbors.

At the area meetings we will bring you up to date on cooperative activities and operations. Projected rate increases for 2013 will be discussed at the meeting. We will set aside a few minutes to answer questions you may have concerning your cooperative.

Each membership attending these meetings will receive a **\$5 credit** on their December 1st electric bills and also a **2013 Saturday Evening Post Calendar**. Refreshments and a time to visit will close the event.

A postcard will be mailed with your bill to each member announcing the meeting locations. We hope that you can attend one of the three meetings listed below:

2012 Area Meetings Dates and Locations

(All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.)

Mon., Nov. 8th	Millstadt VFW, Millstadt
Mon., Nov. 19th	Hecker Community Center, Hecker
Tues., Nov. 20th	Monroe County Fairgrounds Hall, Waterloo

Attend and receive a \$5 bill credit and a 2012 Saturday Evening Post calendar!

Office Closings



The office will be **CLOSED on Monday, November 12th** for Veterans Day



In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be **CLOSED on Thursday & Friday November 22nd & 23rd.**

Your Cooperative Is a Power Market Aggregator

Many communities and counties across Illinois are voting on aggregating their citizen's buying power into basically power purchasing cooperatives. This community and county wholesale power buying aggregation is what Illinois electric cooperatives have already been doing for their member-owners, in some cases for over 75 years.

Under the 1997 Illinois deregulation law, not-for-profit electric cooperatives and municipally owned utilities were treated differently than for-profit, investor-owned utilities such as Ameren and Commonwealth Edison. Because of their consumer-owned structure and aggregated buying power, the not-for-profit and locally owned and controlled electric cooperatives were allowed to maintain their local decision making authority on whether or not to maintain their aggregated buying power as a group, or to enter the deregulated market with both its risks and potential rewards.

Until recently, deregulation has not been a very successful experiment with a critical marketplace like electricity. And, there have been very mixed results in the few states that have deregulated the power marketplace.

With lower demand for electricity and excess supply of power caused by the recession, plus historically low natural gas prices due to new found reserves created with fracking technology, current market based wholesale power prices have declined. The decline in short term market based prices created what some expect to be a short term opportunity for a number of Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) power marketers. They have been able to secure short-term contracts and have targeted individuals who could switch electric suppliers. More recently in Illinois, they have sought after aggregated markets, specifically

communities and counties.

Electric cooperatives already provide market aggregation and have formed generation and transmission cooperatives to provide long-term stability in power supply and price. This long-term approach is different than the approach ARES power marketers have taken, which includes aggressive mail and phone marketing and the marketing of short term one to three year contracts for wholesale power.

A reasonable analogy would be entering into a short-term adjustable rate mortgage loan agreement that contained a low variable rate of interest and a "balloon provision" (which requires all amounts due and owing to be paid in full at the end of a two or three year term, or refinanced at a much higher rate). Contrast this with signing a loan for a 30-year period at a fixed rate. Prudence for those who expect to be in business long term would likely be to choose the long term fixed rate, rather than the riskier short-term rate that can be expected to increase over the long term. Your co-op has respectfully chosen what the board deems to be the more prudent approach for the long-term.

To enter into the deregulated market, member elected board

members and locally elected municipal leaders would need to vote to open up their respective service territories to the marketing efforts of ARES power marketers. It is important to note that only the wholesale energy portion of electric bills would be open to the ARES marketing efforts. The responsibility for local service, billing and outages plus transmitting and distributing the wholesale power is still the local utility's obligation and expense.

The not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives and municipal utilities have invested millions of dollars on behalf of their members and consumers in power supply options from the latest clean coal technology to renewable wind energy projects so as to provide long-term power supply stability. A long-term diversified power supply portfolio is simply a prudent risk management approach. This power supply investment and diversification, plus cooperative aggregation of members' buying power has proven successful over the long haul, and should provide reliability and price stability for the energy needs of member-owners, not just in the short term of a few years, but for decades to come.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Your kitchen can yield big energy savings. Check the refrigerator door seal for a tight fit. Run only full dishwasher loads, and use the microwave rather than oven to reheat food and make small meals. Finally, unplug small appliances when not in use—many draw power even when turned off. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Eight 2013 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Monroe County Electric Cooperative President/CEO, Alan Wattles has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2013 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2013 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an

Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

A new eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker’s school; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric

cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Wattles. “Monroe County Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Allan Master-son, Director of Member Services at 939-7171 or by email at amasterson@mcec.org. All necessary paperwork is being sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.mcec.org.

Co-op Connections Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Monroe County Electric Cooperative members saved over 58% on prescriptions in 2012 so far, as of August using the Co-op Connections card. There were a total of 73 prescriptions filled for a total savings of \$3,274.



MCEC Line Outages - September 2012

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Description	Substation
09/02/12	1:16	11	JJ Rd	Lightning	Waterloo
09/07/12	0:55	48	Gilmore Lake Area	Lightning	N. Waterloo
09/07/12	4:07	47	Old Orchard Ln	Vehicles or Machinery	Waterloo
09/10/12	5:44	18	Arbor Ridge Subdivision	Corrosion	Millstadt
09/14/12	1:28	10	Mc Bride Rd	Small Animals or Birds	Poe
09/15/12	3:03	15	Black Jack Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
09/17/12	1:25	9	Stringtown Rd	Trees, Other	Fults
09/19/12	0:35	3	Amberwood Ln	Trees, Other	Poe
09/25/12	4:40	18	Arbor Ridge Subdivision	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
09/25/12	2:03	4	Klein School Rd	Lightning	New Athens
09/25/12	3:04	20	Stringtown Rd	Lightning	Fults
09/25/12	3:36	86	Kaskaskia Rd	Lightning	Waterloo
09/25/12	1:04	251	Red Bud Area	Lightning	Poe
09/26/12	1:51	9	Steppig Rd	Lightning	Fountain
09/27/12	1:00	170	Smithton Area	Maintenance	Smithton
09/27/12	0:15	144	Smithton Area	Maintenance	Smithton
09/27/12	4:00	67	Smithton Area	Maintenance	Smithton
09/27/12	3:45	77	Smithton Area	Maintenance	Smithton
09/27/12	3:30	38	Smithton Area	Maintenance	Smithton
09/27/12	1:30	35	Brand Woods Subdivision	Small Animals or Birds	Poe
09/27/12	0:32	24	Probst Rd	Small Animals or Birds	New Athens
09/27/12	3:46	22	Alschied's Subdivision	Other, Deterioration	N. Waterloo
09/29/12	3:12	22	Alschied's Subdivision	Other, Deterioration	N. Waterloo

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