



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Come out to one of our area member meetings



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. Plans and projections for 2014 will be discussed and 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 **2014 Saturday Evening Post Calendar and an attendance gift**. Refreshments and a time to visit will close the event.

A post card 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:

2013 Area Meetings – Dates and Locations

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

Monday, November 18th	Hecker Community Center, Hecker
Tuesday, November 19th	Monroe County Annex Building, 901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo (off Rt. 3)
Wednesday, November 20th	Millstadt VFW, Millstadt

Office Closings



The office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, November 11th for Veterans Day.



In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be **CLOSED** on Thursday & Friday November 28th & 29th.

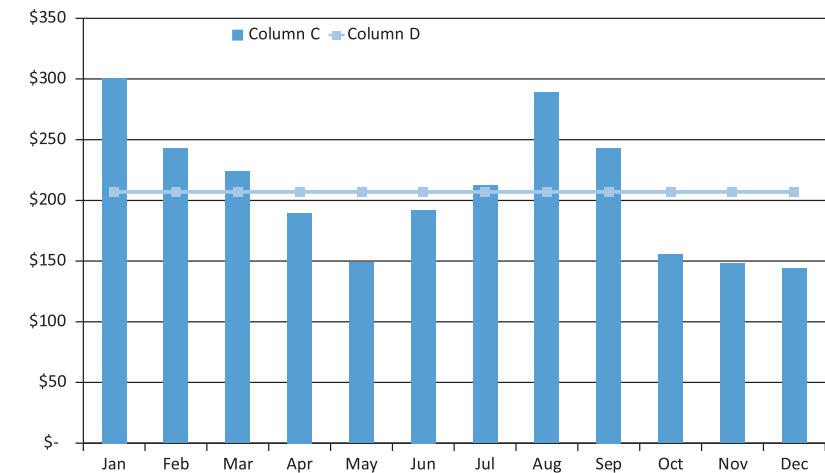
Make your bill payments easier with our “Budget Billing” and “Auto-pay” programs

If the higher usage months of winter and summer put you over what you have allotted for monthly utility bills, you may want to consider budget billing.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative’s Budget Billing program allows you to level out those higher bills and pay the same amount each month. That’s why it’s called “budget billing”. You can budget for the same amount each month.

To participate in the budget billing option, you must have lived in your home for a year or more. To provide you with a cushion, we take your annual usage and spread it over 11 months. This helps keep you from owing a large settle-up amount at the end of the budget billing cycle.

You still receive a bill showing you the exact amount of electricity you used each month and the amount of the bill. In November, we settle-up, deducting any credit or including



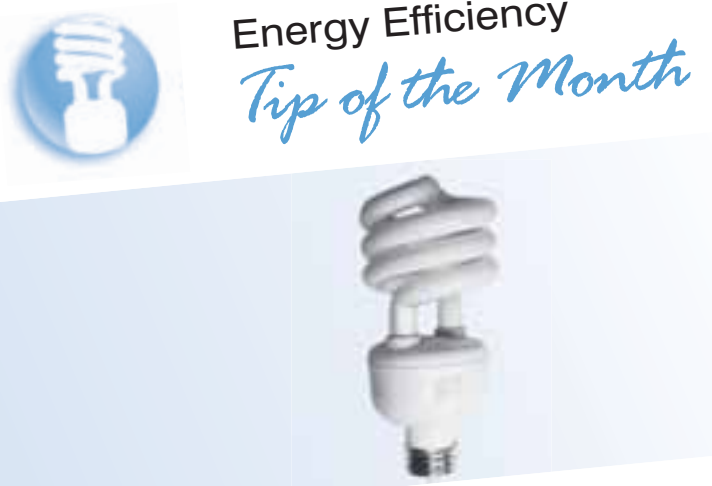
any under-payment.

To remain in the program, you must keep your account current. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.

Another option you may want to consider is our **Auto Pay Program**. Each month the amount of your bill will be sent from your bank account (checking or savings) or out

of your debit/credit card account to the Cooperative on the due date of your bill, which is the 20th of each month. No more late fees, checking fees or paying postage.

To sign up for either of these payment plans, please call us at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs can be up to 75% more efficient than equivalent traditional bulbs, and as prices have come down they’ve become more cost effective. Many new designs are available for all types of fixtures, including dimmable CFLs.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128,
Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-
939-7171

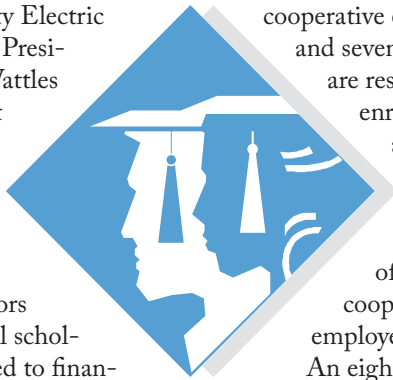
Office hours: Monday through
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. •
800-757-7433

Eight 2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Monroe County Electric Cooperative President/CEO Alan Wattles has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2014 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 2014 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.

An 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 military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Allan Masterson, 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. Simply click the “Member Info” tab at the top and then the “Downloads” tab on the left side. **The deadline for applications is December 31st, 2013.**

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

Monroe County Electric Cooperative members saved more than 50% on prescriptions in 2013, as of August, by using the Co-op Connections card. There were a total of 86 prescriptions filled for a total savings of \$ 4,001.37.



Cooking Efficiently

Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternatively, if you're baking in a ceramic

or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- **Don't neglect your slowcooker.** Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to



compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

MCEC Line Outages - September 2013

Time Off	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
09/01/13	1:30	9	Stringtown Rd	LIGHTNING	Fults
09/02/13	1:29	2	Country Side Ln	CONDUCTOR SAG	Smithton
09/05/13	1:20	9	Stemler Rd	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Millstadt
09/18/13	1:49	2	Skaer Rd	OTHER, FAULTY EQUIPMENT	New Athens
09/21/13	2:22	21	GG Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	N Waterloo
09/22/13	1:12	7	Valmeyer Rd	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Columbia
09/29/13	4:37	6	Stage Coach Trail	OTHER, DETERIORATION	East Carondelet
09/29/13	1:59	2	Suterville Rd	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Fults