


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

What would life be like without electric co-ops?

In the holiday movie classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" the lead character, George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart), wishes he had never been born due to financial troubles he is experiencing. Through the help of an Angel, he sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn't exist. George comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if community leaders had not founded Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC) seventy-seven years ago?

Living in the U.S. in 2015, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. So many of our modern conveniences that improve the quality of our lives are dependent on electricity as the "fuel" to make them work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up, to the refrigerator that keeps our morning milk cold and fresh. From the HVAC unit that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, to the vacuum that lets us clean more efficiently and all those kitchen appliances that save us time and physical energy. Of course, so much of our entertainment, whether it comes from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that your electric co-op provides. Just think, there would be no

smartphones or cell phones if there were no electricity.

Businesses of all kinds rely on electricity to produce and sell the products we need. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that, while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the quality of life business. Your cooperative awards 10-\$500 school grants each year and performs Live Line Safety Demonstrations for area schools, businesses, emergency personnel and civic organizations.

As we celebrate the season that reminds us to be thankful for all that we have, it is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world that still live without reliable electric service. That is equal to about four times the U.S. population!

Many of the things we take for granted living in the U.S. are much harder and more time consuming for people in developing countries around the world. We are proud members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that is working through their affiliate, NRECA International, and the NRECA International Foundation to help bring power to people in developing countries like Haiti and Liberia. (<http://www.nreca.coop/it-starts-with-power/>)

We are thankful that our community ancestors right here had the vision and foresight to do for

ourselves what needed to be done, gathering our friends and neighbors to form our electric co-op. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on MCEC to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: energystar.gov



Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

The Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards **ten** \$2,000 scholarships annually to students entering college to assist them with educational costs. The fund was designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family,” while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts.



About the scholarships



- 5** scholarships are awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative.
- 3** 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.
- 1** scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.
- 1** scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL.

For more information about the IEC Memorial Scholarships, please contact:

Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433, ext. 115.

To apply, go to our website at www.mcec.org and click “here” under “Ten 2016 Memorial Scholarships (\$2,000 each)” to submit your application **online**.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 31, 2015

MCEC line outages - October 2015

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
10/04/15	1:49	134	Ahne Rd/Bushy Prairie	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Waterloo
10/04/15	10:23	77	Deer Hill Rd	MAINTENANCE	Waterloo
10/13/15	2:21	111	LL Rd	UNKNOWN	Poe
10/13/15	2:14	523	Fults Area	UNKNOWN	Fults
10/13/15	2:05	8	Altes Rd	UNKNOWN	Waterloo
10/14/15	1:02	570	IL Rt 156 East	UNKNOWN	Waterloo
10/19/15	0:09	9	Harvell Hill Ln	MAINTENANCE	East Carondelet
10/19/15	3:54	50	Brandt Rd	OTHER, DETERIORATION	Fults
10/28/15	0:45	9	Chalfin Bridge Rd	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Fults
10/28/15	0:46	4	Wagner Rd	TREES, OTHER	East Carondelet

Monroe County Electric will be closed for the following Holidays

- Christmas Eve – Closing at 2:30
- Christmas Day – All Day
- New Year's Eve – Closing at 2:30
- New Year's Day – All Day



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



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You cannot control Mother Nature and now would be a good time for you to purchase a standby generator. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative offers the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well-known names in small engines.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When electric service is restored, the transfer switch switches back to utility power and shuts the generator down. Many homes and small businesses have pumps, fans computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System, you never have to worry about

another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices. If you are looking for a standby generator you can contact our member services department at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433, ext. 115.



Choose your payment option!

- At our office front desk or outside 24 hour drop-box
- Mail to PO Box 128, Waterloo, IL 62298
- Set up a recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website/Smarthub application
- Using Smarthub app. from mobile phone
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- Sign up for Pre-pay and manage your payment schedule

See our web page for current promotions and programs

Fireplace **FACTS VS. FICTION**

FICTION: My fireplace will cut down on my winter heating bills.

FACTS: Using a fireplace can increase your home heating costs. Heat from a fire is generally confined to the area near your fireplace, making it an inefficient way to heat your home overall. And warm air inside your home is channeled up the chimney, so incoming cold air must be heated by your central heating system. If you prefer to heat your home with wood, think about a wood-burning stove. Newer models are more energy efficient and burn more cleanly than their predecessors.

If you're mainly looking for a nostalgic mood from your living room fireplace, sealed-combustion gas fireplaces use outside air instead of drawing air from inside the home. Electric fireplaces also offer very realistic effects, and can be operated with or without an electric heater for comfort control.