


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles
**Across The
President's
Desk**

ANNUAL
79th
Saturday, June 10th
at the cooperative headquarters
MEETING

Thought about being a director?

Nominating petitions due April 24 for Board of Directors

Petitions are available now at the office for directors in districts 4, 5 and 6 on the Board of Directors of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. Petitions must be signed by no less than 20 members from the district you have primary residence in and must be received in the co-op's office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24.

One co-op member will be elected from each district to serve a three-year term. See a map of the districts at www.mcec.org and click on "Board of Directors" at the top. We recommend that you call into our office and have one of our employees



Left to right, Directors Richard Neff, George Obernagel and Ross Mueller.

check your district as well. Seeking re-election are incumbent directors George Obernagel of Waterloo,

District 4; Richard Neff of Smithton, District 5; and Ross Mueller of Fults, District 6.

To qualify as a director:

- Receive electric service from the co-op at their primary residence within the district, be a member in good standing, and not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Be able to spend adequate time on board work and attend most regular board meetings held the fourth Tuesday morning of each month for several hours at the co-op office.
- Attend our annual meeting each year and other special board meetings, committee meetings, director's conferences and educational seminars as necessary.
- Be accessible to members within your district and willing to represent all members of the co-op.
- Acquire knowledge about the electric utility including finances, management and public issues. (It takes time to learn the system and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)
- Establish policies and employ a general manager who is responsible for all operational details.
- Additional details can be found in our Bylaws.

A solid investment in your electric co-op

By Anne Prince

As a member of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC), you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The “CONSUMER CHARGE” is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cyber security threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The consumer charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly and staff is trained and ready so the lights turn on when you need them.



Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric co-operative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the consumer charge each month to cover basic operational costs. All members are charged the same amount for the cost of operation since all members benefit from the same service. In essence, this gives each co-op member an equal share in MCEC’s operation.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value the investment that you make in the co-op each month, and we strive to use that investment wisely for the benefit of all members of our community. Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

New Employee

Chris Summers of New Athens was recently hired as a tree trimmer for your cooperative. Chris’s first day of employment was on Monday, January 30.

He has fifteen years of experience as a tree trimmer. His first four years were in the residential areas and the last eleven years were spent in line clearing.

Chris was born and raised in Belleville. He currently resides in New Athens with his wife Jackie, and

their three sons; Ethan, 12; Kaden, 10 and Lucas, 5. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran church east of Red Bud, and his sons attend Trinity Lutheran school. He would eventually like to move to Red Bud to be closer to work and to his son’s school.

Chris enjoys spending time with his family. His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

President/CEO Alan Wattles said, “Keeping our lines clear of trees is a huge priority for us in



maintaining quality electric service to our membership.” “We’re very excited to have Chris on our team to help us keep that priority strong and active,” he added.

We welcome Chris to the cooperative!

MCEC line outages - January 2017

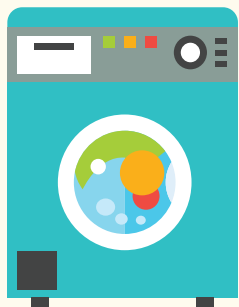
Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
01/02/17	2:13	50	Brandt Rd	Unknown	Fults
01/14/17	3:41	47	Lake Ronnie	Trees and Ice	Waterloo
01/14/17	2:40	128	Fults Area	Trees and Ice	Fults
01/16/17	1:39	73	Five Forks Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	New Athens
01/19/17	2:07	3	Stone Villa Dr	Lightning	New Athens
01/26/17	2:34	17	Bohnemeir Church Rd	Trees, Other	East Carondelet



ENERGY STAR

Buyers Guide

Purchasing **ENERGY STAR**-certified appliances and electronics is a great way to save energy in your home. But how do you choose the right product? It depends on your energy-saving goals *and* how you use energy in your home.



Do you wash multiple loads of laundry each week? Investing in an ENERGY STAR-certified washer could save you around \$45 on your utility bill each year. Some of the top-rated ENERGY STAR-certified large washers come from LG and Samsung. Visit ENERGY STAR's "Most Efficient 2017" page to learn more.



Home computers can use a shocking amount of energy each year. If all computers in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR certified, we would save more than \$1 billion in energy costs per year. If you can't buy an ENERGY STAR-certified computer, consider updating the power management setting on your computer. Visit energystar.gov/products/office_equipment/computers.



The larger TVs get, the more energy they use. But ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are, on average, 25% more efficient than conventional models. LG, Samsung and Vizio make the list of ENERGY STAR's most efficient 2017 TVs.

There are many different types of ENERGY STAR-certified products, including:

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Electric terms 201

When discussing charges on electric bills, there are several different terms that may be on a member's bill – depending on the rate schedule they are on. Below are a few of the most common.

Consumer Charge:

This charge reflects the cost of having your electrical service energized and available when the member wants. It is charged regardless of how much, if any, electricity is consumed at the site. This recovers a variety of expenses including the physical line material, such as poles, conductor, transformers, meters and other reoccurring costs such as accounting, billing and insurance. These are customer-related costs. It also includes costs related to operating and maintaining a minimum distribution system.

Energy Charge:

This is basically a pass-through charge which reflects the direct generation cost of the electricity from our power plant, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC).

Distribution Delivery Charge:

This charge represents what costs must be recovered to operate and maintain the distribution system above and beyond the minimum. These costs are generally deemed to be demand-related. Since we do not have Residential Demand Charges, these expenses are recovered through this kWh charge.

Power Cost Adjustment:

This can appear as a charge or a credit on a member's bill. It is calculated by comparing what our actual wholesale power cost is for

the month against the budgeted amount. If the wholesale power cost MCEC is billed is less than budgeted, members will see a credit on their bill. If the wholesale power cost MCEC is billed is more than budgeted, members will see a charge on their bill.

Utility Tax:

The state of Illinois charges \$.0032 per kWh of electricity.

Current Charges Due By:

This is the amount due if paid by the due date. Usually, it is the 20th of the month (or next business day).

Current Charge Due After:

This is the amount due if paid after the due date. It is the net amount plus a 5% penalty.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries and an ENERGY STAR charger for them which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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