


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

The power behind your power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (*MCEC*) strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, *MCEC* lineworkers are responsible for keeping over 1,200 miles of lines across parts of three counties working, to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known



for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Monday, April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

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.

Wood chips available!!!

We are creating a database for members who want free wood chips. If you are a member and are interested in this, please call our office at 939-7171, ext. 118, or ask for Chris Scott to be added to our wood chip list.

Our linemen work to keep the lights on and power flowing

We salute our linemen as we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day on Monday, April 9. Our linemen get called out at all hours of the day and night, in the most extreme weather conditions, whose goal is to get your power back on as soon as possible. *We thank you!*

These highly skilled men make up our operations department. They are always on call, standing by to light your homes and businesses. They endure long hours along with cold, hot, rainy, stormy and flooded environments to make our members' lives better. Take a moment to thank our linemen this month. #ThankALineman.

Jay Krump – 12 years *(26 years as a lineman)*
Matt Kish – 16 years *(3 years as a lineman)*
Chris Deterding – 16 years
Steve Drennan – 21 years *(13 years as a lineman)*
Gary Gilbert – 18 years
Bob Gross – 35 years *(40 years as a lineman)*
Randy Ellner – 21 years
Ron Rusteberg – 31 years



Left to right; Jay Krump, Matt Kish, Chris Deterding, Steve Drennan, Gary Gilbert, Bob Gross, Randy Ellner and Ron Rusteberg.



Attention!!! High School Seniors!

If you are a high school senior and a son or daughter of a Monroe County Electric Co-Operative member, you may be eligible to apply for one of ten \$500 scholarships to be drawn for at this year's Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, June 2, at the cooperative headquarters. We are located at 6132 State Route 3, Waterloo (front parking lot) and at 5960 Old Red Bud road (back parking lot).

The cooperative member on the account must be in "good standing" with the cooperative (good standing qualifications are available upon request) for the son or daughter to be eligible for the scholarship.

Find a copy of the application on page 20d or the back of this page.





2018 Annual Meeting Scholarship Application

Ten - \$500 Scholarships to be awarded by drawing at Annual Meeting on June 2, 2018

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a member in good standing of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, or is the dependent of a member of the Cooperative who is in good standing, and must have been a member for one year prior to May 25, 2018.
- All applications must be signed by the applicant and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent). Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications must be returned to the Cooperative by 4:00 p.m., May 25, 2018.
- The applicant, and the parent or legal guardian if a dependent of a member, must attend the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on June 2, 2018, at the cooperative headquarters. The applicant and parent/ legal guardian (if a dependent) must be present at the time of the drawing.
- All applicants shall check in at the registration table before 10:00 a.m. the morning of the Annual Meeting.
- The applicant must be enrolled, or have applied for enrollment, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university, vocational or post secondary school for the Fall 2018 term.
- The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient upon verification of enrollment.

Applicant Name: _____ Age: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (s) (only in case of dependent): _____

MCEC Account Name and Number: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

College/School Attending Fall 2018: _____

High School Graduated From: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

By signing this application you hereby agree the information provided is true and correct, and permission is granted for Monroe Country Electric Co-Operative and associated organizations to use your information and your photograph for publicity purposes.

Applicant signature _____ Date _____