


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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



80th Annual Meeting draws big crowd

All who attended to celebrate our 80th Annual Meeting of Members enjoyed a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast provided by Chris Cakes of O'Fallon, Mo. Members also had the opportunity to watch a Live Line Demonstration and attend the business meeting.

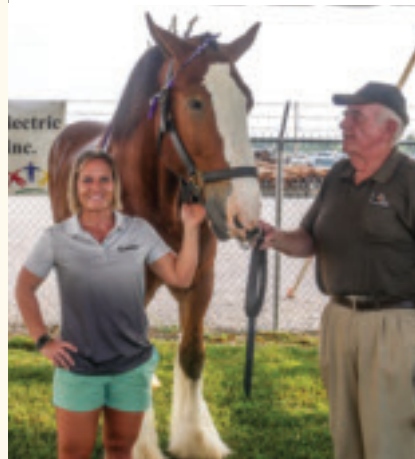
Premeeeting activities for the children included a petting zoo, bounce houses, balloon artists and pole climbing display, plus members could get their picture taken with a Clydesdale horse.

Each membership attending received a **\$20 bill credit**, which will be issued on the **July 1 billing**, along with the free breakfast.

During the business meeting, members were informed about the organization's financial condition, and the co-op re-elected three area men to the board of directors. They were Richard Hollis, north district; Larry Kraft, central district; and Richard Liefer, south district.

President/CEO Alan Wattles addressed the audience and discussed the beginnings of MCEC and the co-op model.

"A co-op is member-owned, we are owned by the members we serve," Wattles said. "We all have an equal share, as in one member – one vote. When the co-op does well financially, as in positive margins, these are allocated back to members as capital credits.... MCEC has had a long history



of repaying capital credits, totaling more than \$6 million to date. That's our difference, we give back to the ones we serve."

Board Chairman Richard Liefer discussed the strategic plan for MCEC. He described how safety is a priority for employees and

(Continued on page 20B)

80th Annual Meeting (Continued from page 20A)

the community, member engagement, the co-op's commitment to the community through grants and scholarships, and employee development and training.

"Why the success? Pretty simple really," Liefer said. "Co-ops are about people, board and employees alike with caring attitudes willing to give of themselves to improve relationships."

It was reported that MCEC had a good year financially. In 2017, MCEC ended the year with positive margins of \$1,312,141. MCEC had operating margins of \$577,421, and the balance of the non-operating margins received were assisted by an allocation from the co-op's power supplier Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) of \$542,288. For 2017, MCEC returned a total of \$274,906 in capital credits to its members and expect to return approximately \$250,000 in 2018.

"The great diversity of our weather patterns from year-to-year can create rather large peaks and values in our income," Liefer said. "Tied with that is the fact that approximately 85 percent of our expenses are fixed and need to be paid regardless of current financial status." Liefer said that MCEC staff manages this well and always searches for ways to become more financially stable from year to year.

In closing, Wattles said, "I would like to acknowledge and thank you, the members, for coming today. Bylaws require us to have an annual meeting to conduct the business of the co-op... I hope you see this as a duty to be here and take pride in the co-op that serves you just as we, the board of directors and employees, take pride in serving you

At the end of the business meeting, there were drawings for **10 \$500 scholarships** to registered area high school seniors.

(Continued on page 20C)



The winners were:

- Donald Muertz Jr. - Fults
- Olivia King - Columbia
- Logan Urspruch - Waterloo
- Elena Biske - Columbia
- Alaina Henry - Waterloo
- Royce Hotchkiss - Waterloo
- Zachary Muir - Smithton
- Cassidy Neff - New Athens
- Logan Frisse - Smithton
- Leah Hill - Fults

We also drew for four cash attendance prizes following the scholarship drawings.

The winners were:

- \$25 - Ardell Roider - Columbia
- \$50 - Viola Frank - Waterloo
- \$75 - Timothy Qualls - Fults
- \$100 - Todd Biske - Columbia



Kraft and Liefer reach a service milestone

Earlier this year, two of your board directors reached a milestone by achieving their Director Gold Certificates. Larry Kraft, past board chairman and Richard Liefer, current board chairman, were presented with their certificates. Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD (Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate) and BLC (Board Leadership Certificate) to improve their ability to serve as your directors. We congratulate and thank Larry and Richard for their commitment to your cooperative!



MCEC line outages - May 2018

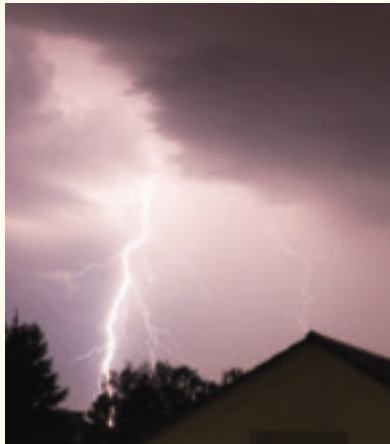
Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
05/03/18	1:11	3	Old Beck Rd	Unknown	New Athens
05/03/18	2:29	12	Mm Rd	Trees, Other	Fults
05/03/18	0:14	334	Red Bud Area	Trees, Other	Poe
05/03/18	1:39	3	R Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
05/14/18	2:18	37	Mule Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	East Carondelet
05/14/18	3:30	15	C Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
05/15/18	0:32	50	Fountain Area	Small Animals Or Birds	Fountain
05/15/18	0:33	187	Columbia Area	Small Animals Or Birds	Columbia
05/16/18	1:07	4	Matzenbacher Ln	Other, Faulty Equipment	Poe
05/29/18	2:07	22	J Rd	Trees, Other	Poe

We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year-round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory stand minimal risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in



the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first – like damage to transmission lines. These problems must be corrected before we

can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

MCEC's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of members. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify MCEC so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans.

Nine ways to pay your bill

1. Pay Online

Set up your account on our website at www.mcec.org, pay online, view your usage and billing history.

2. Automatic Bank Drafting

Pay your electric bill automatically from your checking account. You must have a good payment record to qualify. The member can still receive a paper bill in the mail.

3. E-Check

An E-Check is a one-time payment from your checking account.

4. Credit Card

We accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Pay month by month or set up a recurring credit card payment.

5. Budget Billing

A budget billing plan, designed to equalize month electric payments, is available. You must have a good payment record and be a member for at least one year.

6. Drop box

Payment of your electric bill may be made at the cooperative office's 24-hour drop box

located at 6132 State Route 3, Waterloo.

7. By Mail

You may mail your payment to our office at Monroe County Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, IL 62298.

8. In Person

Our office hours are Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

9. Using our SmartHub App

Download the "SmartHub" app and pay your bill from your phone, tablet or computer!

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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

Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • 800-757-7433