


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



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

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative observes National Co-op Month in October

Monroe County Electric is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. “Cooperatives - See the Future” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

“Our cooperative delivers electricity to more than 6,000 member-owners,

representing over 7,300 meter services, in our three-county service area of southwestern Illinois,” says Alan Wattles, President/CEO. “Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by our cooperative goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street.”

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in

the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

Follow us on Facebook or #Coop-Month to see how co-ops across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month.



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Attention Educators and Administrators!

Have an educational project you'd like funded?

\$7,500 available through Touchstone Energy
Classroom Empowerment Grants



Enter our Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Program and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education projects!

Touchstone Energy Empowerment Grants totaling \$7,500 are being funded by Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information about the grant program, go to our website at www.mcec.org. You can also contact Allan Masterson at amasterson@mcec.org.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish
- The estimated cost of the project
- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
- Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
- When project will be completed

- The number of people affected by the project
- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community

Photos and supporting data are encouraged. Grant applications must be received at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative by Friday, November 9, 2018. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 7, 2018.

MCEC,

Here are some pictures of the students using the STEM kits we purchased with the generous grant you gave Parkview's Second Grade. We purchased STEM kits that involved the students solving problems for popular fairy tales. In these pictures the students needed to design a bridge that all Three Billy Goats Gruff could cross successfully while the Troll was underneath. They needed to design, build and then reflect on what worked, what failed, and how they would build it differently next time. The students loved this lesson, I heard great discussions on how to build a bridge that would not fall over! Thanks again for the grant, these students might be the builders of tomorrow!

*Carla Wantuck
Parkview Second Grade*



Meet the Employees



Alisa Wood

Tell us about yourself

I'm originally from Birch Tree, Mo. I met my husband Mark when we were in college, and we've been married for almost 22 years. We have a 20-year-old daughter, Regan, who is a junior at the University of Minnesota.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:

A veterinarian. I changed my mind after helping my dad deliver a calf one night.

If I could have any meal to eat, it would include:

Tacos, chips and salsa.

Describe the best vacation you ever took:

Cruise to the Bahamas for a friend's wedding.

Do you have a collection of something?

Seashells from the different beaches that we have visited.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

Going to the river to swim was my favorite thing to do when I was a child. We lived close to the Jack's Fork River in Missouri.

What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

Traveling and spending time with my future grandchildren

October
is National Cybersecurity
Awareness Month.

Cybersecurity Tip

Create long passwords that only you will remember and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.



6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128 • Waterloo, Illinois 62298
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort out before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine whether such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A MCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on MCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433.