

# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



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

## **Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program**



### **About the scholarships**

The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards twelve \$2,000 scholarships annually to deserving students in the “electric cooperative family” entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

- 6** **scholarships** are awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2018).
- 4** **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 (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2018).
- 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 (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2018).
- 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 (deadline to apply April 30, 2019).

**\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE!**

Application and information are available on our website at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org).

For questions contact Allan Masterson at [amasterson@mcec.org](mailto:amasterson@mcec.org)  
or call 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.

## Richard Hollis earns Director Gold Certificate

Recently, your newest board director, Richard Hollis, reached a milestone by achieving his Director Gold Certificate. He was presented with his certificate by Board Chairman Richard Liefer at the Sept. 25 board meeting.

Hollis joined the board of directors in May 2016.

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.

Thank you, Richard, for your commitment to your cooperative - and congratulations!



*L to r; Board President Richard Liefer presenting board member Richard Hollis with his Director Gold Certificate.*

## Sondag joins cooperative as tree-trimming apprentice

After working a summer internship at your cooperative, Patrick Sondag was hired this fall as a full-time tree trimming apprentice starting Sept. 3. He began his internship on May 22, 2018.



During his internship, Pat got a chance to work with the tree crew, clearing brush, spraying and trimming trees.

He was also sent out with the line crew as a laborer and observed how poles are framed, lines are installed (overhead and underground), and

anything else involved with new electric service and service repairs on outages. Pat displayed a strong work ethic and was eager to learn what a tree trimmer and an electric lineman needs to know. He will be working on a six-month probationary period.

Pat enjoys working at the cooperative and likes the fact he meets some members out on the jobs that he knows.

We congratulate Pat and welcome him to the cooperative!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

*Source: energy.gov*

## Fall member meetings:

<b>Tuesday, November 13</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Millstadt VFW (upstairs)</b>
<b>Thursday, November 15</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Cooperative warehouse (in back)</b>

**A \$5 bill credit will be applied to the December bills for each registered member attending.**

**Light refreshments available after.**

## Meet the Employees



**Alan Wattles**

President/CEO

### Tell us about yourself

I've been married to my wife Kay for 32 years. I have two children: Sonya, who is married to Justin Howard, and Mitch, who is married to Bethany Benyo. We have one grandchild, Jonah (by Mitch and Bethany), who just turned 1 in May.

I moved to Waterloo in 2002 to accept the President/CEO job here at the cooperative.

### When I was a child, I wanted to be:

I grew up on a farm and either wanted to be a live-stock farmer or a veterinarian.

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

Porterhouse steak cooked medium with a baked potato with butter and sour cream, salad with 1000 island dressing, homemade biscuits and coconut cream pie.

### Describe the best vacation you ever took:

We went on a trip to Hawaii with two other couples and enjoyed the beauty of the island of Maui. We would love to go back.

### Do you have a collection of something?

I collect sports memorabilia for the Cardinals and the Illini.

### What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

I would play home run derby with kids who lived in our area.

### What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

I would like to do some more traveling (Australia) and hopefully help take care of our grandchildren, when possible, or when our children have more.

## MCEC line outages - September 2018

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
09/08/18	3:50	4	Sportsman Road	Trees, Other	Poe
09/08/18	1:46	2	Deer Hill Road	Other, Deterioration	Waterloo
09/10/18	0:30	30	Press Road	Other, Faulty Equipment	Smithton
09/14/18	4:42	10	Rte. 163/Bridge Lane	Other, Deterioration	East Carondelet
09/21/18	1:11	35	Triple Lakes Road	Vehicles Or Machinery	Millstadt
09/28/18	0:55	2	Cliff Drive	Small Animals or Birds	East Carondelet
09/28/18	1:02	27	Konarcik Road	Vehicles or Machinery	Waterloo



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



# ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Distracted driving and electrical safety are connected.

Utility crews often work in an office with a 55-mile-per-hour speed limit and heavy traffic. Hit a utility truck and the lineman in the bucket could be pushed into a high voltage line. Kill or injure a lineman and you could pay a large fine and go to prison.

If you run off the road, you could hit a power pole. Bring down a live power line and it's another layer of electrical danger – to YOU and anyone in the area.

See the video at

Safe  
Electricity.org