


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Making safety a top priority

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. It's our number one priority. Over time, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC) has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. MCEC has a team that focuses on keeping our employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects



During a Live Line Demo, a lineman draws an arc off a model truck in front of the Waterloo Fire Department.

from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.

We encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem solving regarding safety rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. In addition, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. MCEC uses a Live Line Safety Demonstration to perform for schools, civic organizations, emergency personnel and businesses

in the community.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. You can do your part to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact us at 618-939-7171 or visit mcec.org for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school, organization's meeting or community event, please contact us for more information.

And remember to be mindful when it comes to electrical safety.

Wattles re-elected to CFC board and is new secretary-treasurer

President/CEO Alan Wattles of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative in Waterloo was recently re-elected to his second three-year term to the board of directors at Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), the co-op's primary lending institution. In addition, Wattles was also newly elected to the position of board secretary-treasurer.

Wattles was first elected to the board of directors at CFC in March 2016.

Created and owned by America's electric cooperative network, CFC, a nonprofit finance cooperative, provides unparalleled industry expertise, flexibility and responsiveness to serve the needs of nearly 1,000 member-owners across 48 states.

CFC is guided by a 23-member board of directors that represents 10 geographically defined districts, the electric cooperatives' national trade association and an at-large



Left to right: Dean Tesch, vice president; Kent Farmer, president; and Alan Wattles, secretary-treasurer

director. The board sets overall policy, establishes programs and develops strategies for CFC. Each of the board's directors is elected for a three-year term and can serve two consecutive terms.

We offer our congratulations to Alan on his new position at CFC!

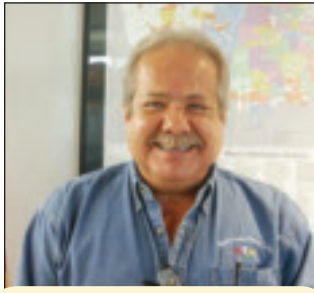


Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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

Meet the Employees



Shawn Segobiano
Engineering & Inventory
Control Coordinator

Tell us about your family.
I have one sister who lives in Hawaii.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:
A policeman



If I could have any meal to eat, it would include:
King crab legs and prime rib

Describe the best vacation you ever took:
A 10-day cruise of the Hawaiian Islands

Do you have a collection of something?
I do not collect anything in particular.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?
Riding bikes and biking trails

What do you see yourself doing after you retire?
Gold prospecting

SAVE THE DATE

08 JUNE

**Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, June 8th!**



MCEC Line Outages - March 2019

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
3/3/2019	1:49	12	Ahne Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
3/3/2019	3:58	82	Ahne Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
3/9/2019	2:48	177	Fountain Area South	Other, Faulty Equipment	Fountain
3/14/2019	1:48	8	Holcomb School Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	Smithton
3/14/2019	1:01	100	Bushy Prairie Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
3/14/2019	2:04	69	Ahne Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
3/14/2019	4:39	54	Sportsman Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Poe
3/14/2019	3:30	382	Fults Area	Wind, Not Trees	Fults
3/14/2019	2:01	17	Maeystown Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Fults
3/17/2019	2:34	232	Rt 3 North Waterloo	Vehicles Or Machinery	North Waterloo
3/18/2019	1:00	12	Gladel Dr	Other, Faulty Equipment	Poe
3/20/2019	1:14	2	Country Club Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	North Waterloo
3/30/2019	0:32	961	Waterloo Area	Power Supplier	Waterloo



MEMORIAL DAY

Our office will be closed
Monday, May 27th

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



Remember
Mother's
Day

May 12



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5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS



1. Power Lines – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.

2. Outdoor outlets – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.



3. Pools – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.

4. Extension Cords – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.



5. Electric Garden Tools – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.



Learn more at

[Safe
Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)