


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Alan W. Wattles Across The President's Desk

81st Annual Meeting draws record crowd

Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing elected new board member for southern area

Despite weather predictions of rain in the area, the cooperative was fortunate to have a cool, dry morning for our 81st Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, June 8.

All registered members were invited to enjoy a pancake/sausage/scrambled egg breakfast provided by Chris Cakes again this year.

Premeeting activities for the kids included a petting zoo, sponsored by the Maeystown Clover 4-H club along with a Clydesdale horse, bounce houses, balloon artists and a pole climbing display.

Along with the free breakfast, each registered membership received a \$20 bill credit, which was issued on their July 1 bills.

During the business meeting, which started at 10 a.m., members were informed about the organization's financial condition, and the co-op re-elected two area men to the board of directors; Joel Harres from the northern area and Gary Gregson from the central area.

We had a contested election for the southern area filling the seat of retiring board member Manlee Knobloch. The two candidates were George Green and Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing, both of Fults. Each candidate was given a few minutes to speak to the membership during the meeting before the final vote was taken. After the ballots were counted by cooperative employees and supervised by C & E Committee members, Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing received the most votes. Amy began her duties at the regularly scheduled June board meeting. She will serve her first three-year term.

MCEC Board Chairman Richard Liefer reported on the board's efforts to "keep our house in order with a





well-constructed and updated strategic plan that maximizes the strength of our employees and community resources to remain productive yet efficient in the changing world.”

The four strategic areas on which the board is focusing are safety, financial planning, employee development and training, and member engagement/commitment to community. The safety of employees and the community is of utmost importance and the board has made the commitment to have a director at monthly safety training meetings.

The financial focus of the strategic plan maintains a sound and stable financial position, continues to operate on a cooperative not-for-profit basis and provides high quality electric service at the lowest possible long-term cost.

Liefer also said, “Every new or existing employee receives the training needed to bring them to a level of expertise and training is offered and strongly encouraged.” The cooperative is also committed to keeping member-owners up to the minute on issues affecting them such as outages and upcoming work. MCEC also gives back to the community by providing a crew to help hang Christmas lights for the city of Waterloo, presenting safety demonstrations to local schools, participating in local parades and providing educational scholarships.

President/CEO Alan Wattles addressed the audience and recapped activities for 2018. He reminded attendees they are more than members of the cooperative. “You are owners,” Wattles said. “We are continuing to use the word owners because you have a stake in the co-op.”

Wattles brought member-owners up to date on the co-op’s operations and maintenance and its emphasis on maintaining the reliability of the system. He also reported positive margins of \$1,140,370, which have been allocated as capital credits to the members. The board approved a general retirement of \$202,870 in capital credits in 2018 and checks were recently sent out to members. To date, MCEC has returned capital credits of \$6,384,517 through 2018.

“MCEC faces some obstacles for the future,” he said. “Regulatory compliance and the addition of renewable

energy mandates from the state will be felt. Your cooperative will do its best to navigate these areas. The energy sector is rapidly changing, and I don't believe it is a one size fits all. I feel there is a place for all sources of energy to fit the demands of the American consumer."

The cooperative is streamlining its inventory management system through its data processing provider

and continuing to expand its use of the system to make use of more with less. It is also working to be more involved in community events to positively impact the area.

Retiring director Manlee Knobloch was presented a plaque in recognition of his 21 years of dedicated service to MCEC members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the winners of 10 \$500 scholarships were

presented via drawing to: Emily Stephens, Sydney Stauffer, Alexis Sensel, Nicholas Heimos Jr., Levi Daab, Rachel Jansen, Quinn Huebner, Ashley Hartman, Luke Frisse and Michaela Runge.

Winners of the four cash prize drawings were: Ken Valentine of Columbia - \$25, Thomas Huebner of Fults - \$50, Patrick Kowalczyk of Waterloo - \$75 and Elmer Dintelmann of Millstadt - \$100.



Randy Ellner
Journeyman Lineman

Meet the Employees

Tell us about yourself:

My wife Joanna and I have been married for 16 years. We have one daughter, Molly, who is 15 and a pet dog named Hershel.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:

A farmer

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

BBQ pork steaks and morel mushrooms

Describe the best vacation you ever took:

My family and I traveled to

Branson, Mo. with my parents. It was the best vacation because my dad never wanted to leave home. (farming)

Do you have a collection of something?

No. I'm not a junk collector.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

Riding three wheelers in the woods.

What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

Farming

MCEC line outages - June 2019

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
6/2/19	1:47	9	Stemler Rd	No Cause Code	Millstadt
6/3/19	1:15	6	Bluff Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Fountain
6/7/19	0:48	55	Kaskaskia Rd/G Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Waterloo
6/9/19	1:05	1118	Il Rt 3/Red Bud Area	Small Animals Or Birds	Poe
6/14/19	1:15	66	Fults Area	Vehicles Or Machinery	Fults
6/21/19	1:20	4	Crook Dr	Lightning	Poe
6/22/19	1:36	14	Wooded Oak Trl	Lightning	East Carondelet
6/22/19	1:03	93	Ll Rd/Altes Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Waterloo

Nicholson hired as summer intern



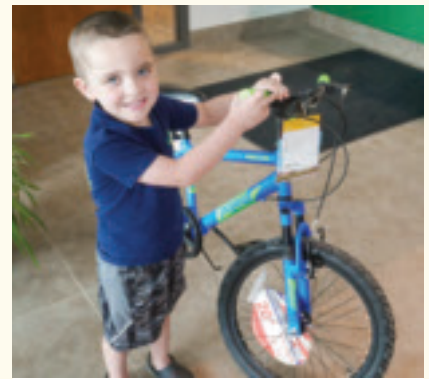
Aaron Nicholson of Red Bud was hired and began employment at the cooperative on Monday, June 3. He will be working as a summer intern,

helping in the warehouse and other jobs that may come up.

He is 18 years old and the son of Don and Lisa Nicholson of Red Bud. He graduated Red Bud High School in May and worked for Steibels Wood Co. in Red Bud with the school co-op program.

Aaron signed up for the U. S. Marine Corps and is scheduled to report to boot camp in San Diego, Calif. in October of this year.

Outside of work, Aaron enjoys hunting, fishing and hanging out with his friends. We welcome Aaron as our new summer intern!



Blake Funk wins boys' bike at annual meeting

At the conclusion of the annual meeting on Saturday, June 8, we drew for children's bikes, Lego sets and fishing rod/reels. The winner of our boy's bike drawing was Blake Funk of Freeburg. Congratulations, Blake!

Free wood pallets and spools available!!!

We currently have wood pallets and spools on hand if any members might want them. Please call our office at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433, ext. 120 and ask for Shawn.



OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 2.



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