


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles Across The President's Desk

Working to keep the lights on

A lot has happened since the start of 2020. MCEC is trying to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and working to “keep the lights on.” Since March 19 and the first declaration for quarantining in Illinois, MCEC has shuffled our work force to maintain an office presence to give a local voice to phone calls as well as continue as much day to day operations as possible. We also closed our lobby to public access in order to comply with that declaration and limit vendors, contractors and other businesses access to the cooperative office. We have split our inside workforce into two groups to work a week on/week off to help control contact and keep social distancing in practice. Our outside crews have been split as well. We are working to keep up with new services as well as maintenance items. This is our focus going forward to meet the needs of the membership and keep our workforce healthy.

We would ask if you are needing new service work done, to contact the office as usual and go through the standard process for getting the job scheduled. We are still meeting members for staking and getting crews lined up to get those jobs completed. We are striving to keep our linemen separated into two crews for a week on/week off schedule with the hopes of having a work force available when

the spring storms come. It's important that we have a full work force in place to get the outages restored. We just ask for your patience at this time to let us work through this unprecedented event.

As businesses have shut down/closed and people are working from home/reduced hours or even been laid off, MCEC wants all our members to know we are ready to work with you to make it through this tough period. We have pushed off any disconnections through May 1 and will revisit it again at that time. We are ready to help make payment arrangements for those in need. We are hoping that for most of our membership, they can continue making on time payments so MCEC doesn't have the burden of meeting revenue requirements for paying our bills. Hopefully, we won't have to borrow additional funds and can keep our rates as stable as possible. We appreciate your efforts in helping us in this process.

Lastly, I hope you and your family are well and healthy. Please abide by the state declarations of shelter in place and doing your part of helping our area get through this pandemic. Hopefully all the steps we are taking will help stem the tide of the outbreak and we can look forward to a better spring and summer for 2020. God bless and stay healthy!

Longtime cooperative lineman passes



We are sad to announce that retired Journeyman Lineman Ronald Schultheis passed away on Monday, March 30 after battling health issues for the past few years.

Ronnie started work with our cooperative as a lineman on May 7, 1973 and officially retired on May 16, 2014 for a total of 41 years of service.

He leaves behind his wife Susie, and two daughters, Leanne (James) Arnold and Andrea (JP) Childers, along with four grandchildren: Caroline and Claire Arnold and Will and Adelyn Childers.

The last several years with the cooperative were spent on the service truck, which was usually the first responder for any regular daytime electric outages or line problems. He also fixed a many security lights and was the main underground line locator for the co-op. He was a very familiar and friendly face representing the cooperative in the community. We send out our deepest sympathies to Susie and his family.

NOTICE

**MCEC's annual meeting scheduled
June 13 has been postponed due to
the COVID-19 pandemic.**



Gilbert and Gotto represent MCEC at Career Night

Two cooperative employees represented MCEC on Thursday evening, February 27 at Waterloo High School for the AG Career Night. Journeyman Lineman Gary Gilbert and Lineman Apprentice Andrew Gotto answered questions from students and demonstrated different pieces of equipment they used routinely on their jobs.

High school students got the opportunity to go around and talk to a number of potential future employers during this evening.

There was a very good turnout for this event, which was sponsored by the Waterloo FFA club and the Monroe County Farm Bureau.

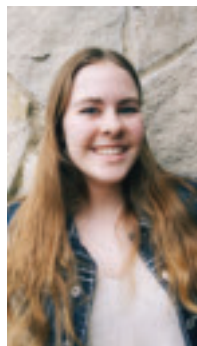
Youth to Washington Finalists

Three cooperative member students participated in our Youth to Washington contest this year. The students were Katie Morwick and Megan Morwick from Fults and Hope Kapelski from Smithton. The winner has not been announced yet at this time.

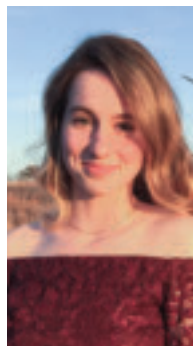
Because of the COVID-19 situation this year, Youth Day in Springfield and Youth to Washington Tour were both cancelled.



Katie Morwick



Megan Morwick



Hope Kapelski



Meet the Employees



Craig Schultheis
Mechanic/Groundman Truck Driver



Tell us about yourself.

I've been married to my wife Tiffany for 14 years. We have three children, twin girls Tessa and Kahrlington, who are 8. Our son Kegan is 6.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:

A farmer, like my dad.

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

Lobster or any seafood, pasta, or Cajun food.

Describe the best vacation you ever took.

It was a trip we took to Gulf Shores, Ala. with our kids five years ago.

Do you have a collection of something?

I collect toy tractors.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

Riding bikes, three-wheelers and four-wheelers. I used to enjoy riding along with my mom down to Fults, where she worked in the post office, and play with kids in the neighborhood.

What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

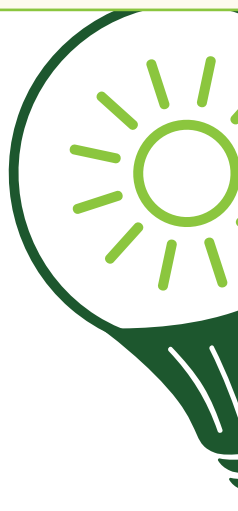
Mostly farming, which I do quite a bit outside of work now. We would like to travel to Hawaii sometime. We look forward to helping our children and playing with the grandchildren someday.

MCEC line outages - March 2020

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
3/10/20	0:20	259	New Athens Area	Other, Faulty Equipment	New Athens
3/12/20	1:52	26	Roscow Rd	Other, Deterioration	Poe

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Connecting with the Cooperative Difference

Capital credits represent our members' ownership in the cooperative. It's one of our founding principles: Members Economic Participation.

Because cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues – or margins – are

allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative utilizes a hybrid method of retiring capital credits. The cooperative retires capital credits on a delayed schedule of about 25 years, and

occasionally a percentage of the previous year. This year, we will retire 100 percent of the balance of allocations from 1994, which is \$113,295, and a portion of the margins in 2019, which is \$86,705.

Capital credits at a glance



When you or your business establishes service with Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC), you become a member.



MCEC carefully tracks down how much energy you purchase from the co-op.



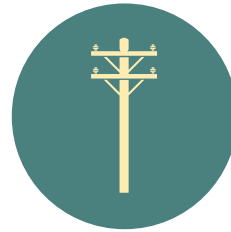
In years that MCEC earns positive margins, you are allocated your portion of the previous year's margins based on the amount of services purchased.



Your investment in the co-op is returned.



Each year, the MCEC board of directors evaluates the financial condition to determine if we can "retire" or refund capital credits.



Over the years, your investment is used to fund capital needs such as power line construction, transformers, trucks inventory and other equipment.



The cooperative carefully tracks the allocations in your accounts as your investment in the co-op.



www.mcec.org

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Office hours:

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