

# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

## Across The President's Desk

**Coming next month!!!**

## Co-op Connections discount cards!

In 2008, our cooperative joined many other co-ops across the country in joining the Co-op Connections discount card program. We will be re-issuing our cards with a fresh, updated look.

As a member of Monroe County Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, with this card you can receive discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses. The Co-op Connections member benefit program is absolutely free!

These new cards will be attached to your December issue of the Illinois Country Living magazine in polybags.

They will come with informational sheets that explain the program and the many benefits you, the member, can receive.

- Great discounts from businesses in your community and national as well
- 10–60 percent discounts on prescriptions at participating pharmacies
- Access to more than 48,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores

This is just one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member. As a Touchstone Energy cooperative,



we are always “Looking out for you.” If you have any questions, please call Allan Masterson at Monroe County Electric Cooperative, 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433 or by email at [amasterson@mcec.org](mailto:amasterson@mcec.org).





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

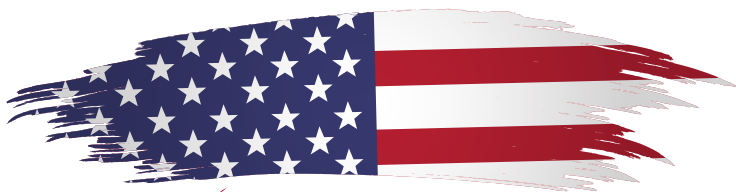
The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards twelve \$2,000 scholarships annually to deserving students in the “electric cooperative family” entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

### About the scholarships

- 6** scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).
- 4** scholarships are reserved for high school seniors 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, 2020).
- 1** scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).
- 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, 2021).

**Apply for the scholarships by visiting our website at  
[mcec.org/Community/Scholarships](http://mcec.org/Community/Scholarships).**

**Click on the link at the bottom. Applications are online only.**



 **2020 ELECTION**

**Don't forget to vote on  
November 3rd!**

# Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing earns CCD certificate

Monroe County Electric Cooperative director Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. The CCD is the first part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's three-part director education program. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all CCD course, directors are awarded the CCD certificate. The program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of co-op directors.



MCEC Board Chairman George Obernagel (left) presented Amy Hoffman-Rohlfing with a CCD certificate.

## MCEC line outages - September 2020

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
9/2/2020	0:26	4	State Route 3	Small Animals Or Birds	Poe
9/5/2020	1:25	7	Triple Lakes Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	East Carondelet
9/6/2020	1:37	23	Lou Dell	Trees, Other	North Waterloo
9/10/2020	1:07	12	State Route 159	Public Activities, Other	Poe
9/24/2020	0:54	9	Stemler Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Millstadt
9/29/2020	2:49	39	Stemler Rd/Country Estates Dr	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
9/29/2020	0:49	104	G Rd/Kaskaskia Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Fults

# GENERATOR

## Safety


Learn more at:



**FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:**

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.





## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

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Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov.



# Four ways to save energy in the kitchen

**A**h, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

## When possible, cook with smaller appliances.

Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According



to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

## Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load.

Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

## Help large appliances work less.

There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

## Use your dishwasher efficiently.

Only run full loads and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you. By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.

# STEP POTENTIAL



## What you need to know:



A downed line does **NOT** have to be arcing or sparking to be energized — and dangerous.



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



The danger exists beyond the point where the downed line is making direct contact with a vehicle or the ground.

Electricity can flow 360° around it.

### What is step potential?

If a person connects two different points of this gradually decreasing voltage by walking away, stepping out of a vehicle, or touching the vehicle and ground at the same time — electricity flows through the individual (path to ground).



### Stay safe.

If you're in a car accident that involves downed lines, **stay in the car**. If you come upon a scene with a downed line, stay far away and call 911 to have the utility notified.



Learn more at

Safe  
Electricity.org



www.mcec.org

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