


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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

Megan Vogt wins IEC Scholarship!



The Monroe County Electric Cooperative board of directors presented Megan Vogt the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship during the June board meeting.

Megan Vogt of rural Fults was one of 12 winners, statewide, of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) members Tom and Tammy Vogt.

She competed for the scholarship with a record number of 252 other student applicants from across the state, which includes 23 other electric cooperatives. There were 13 total submissions from our cooperative. The \$2,000 scholarships are awarded each year to 11 sons or daughters of electric

cooperative members, and one who is planning on attending lineworker's school at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Megan plans on attending Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville to major in nursing and minor in Spanish.

Candidates' applications were judged on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and an essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives, namely her local

cooperative, MCEC.

Alan Wattles, MCEC president/CEO, said, "The employees and board members of MCEC have always been involved in our local schools and communities. We live here too and, like our members, have a vested interest in the future of our children. This scholarship is just a small way we can help make a difference for a student like Megan Vogt, and we congratulate her!" "We have not had a winner of an IEC Scholarship since 2011, so we are very excited for Megan," Wattles added.



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www.mcec.org

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

Mark your calendar!
Monroe's annual meeting
will take place Saturday, Oct.
2 at the cooperative office.

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

Kapelski is awarded scholarship in the wake of pandemic-canceled Washington trip

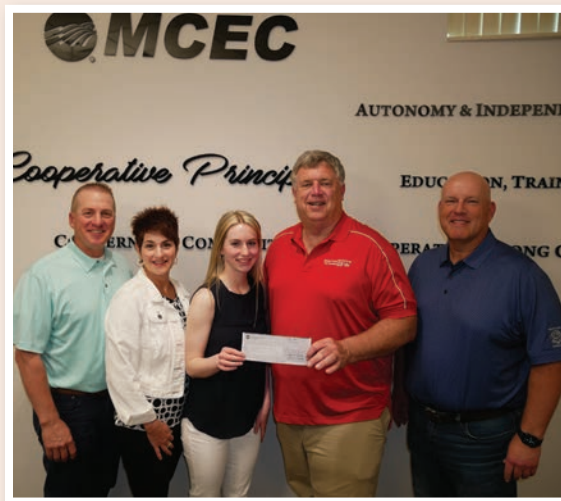
Hope Kapelski of Smithton was the 2020 Youth to Washington contest winner for Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC). Because of the 2020/2021 COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington Youth Tour trip was canceled both years for safety reasons.

In place of the Washington trip, the cooperative board of directors elected to award Hope a scholarship for \$1,500 that will be used for her to attend St. Louis University in the fall.

Every year, the Youth to Washington trip is attended by hundreds of high school students across the country sponsored by their area electric cooperatives. It is a trip of a lifetime that leaves many great memories with the students and lasting friendships can be carried on for years to come.

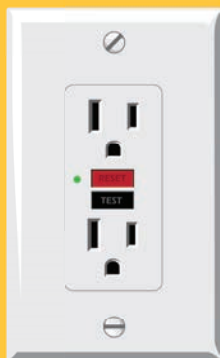
We regret what happened with the trip as a result of this once in a lifetime pandemic, but MCEC is happy to help Hope with her college expenses by awarding this scholarship.

We wish Hope the best of luck in her future college studies!



Parents, Kevin & Jennifer Kapelski; winner Hope Kapelski; MCEC board chairman George Obernagel and MCEC President/CEO Alan Wattles

WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

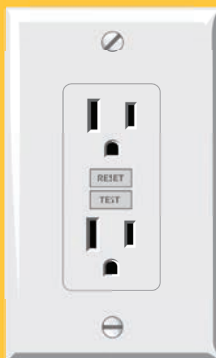


Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.



Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.



Tamper Resistant Outlet

Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.





Meet the Directors

Richard Hollis

What is the most important duty of a director?

I really think the most important thing is to help prepare the co-op for the future. Regardless of if it is people and the skills needed, equipment to do the job safely and correctly, or budgeting and planning for our financial future. It's to be prepared for what's next.

What has surprised you most about serving as a director?

I am most surprised by the amount of education requirements and time commitments that it takes to serve as a director. But I am equally impressed at the seriousness that the association takes to education directors to help better serve the needs of the membership.

What is your projection of the future for the cooperative?

CHANGE. I truly believe that the rate of change will continue to get faster and faster every year. We will see new products and programs that

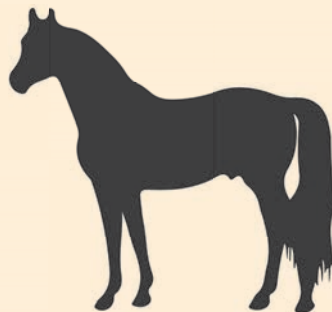
will enhance lives, reduce energy needs and serve our community.

What person has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

Without a doubt it's my wife Gail. After 32 years of marriage, raising two boys, five whole house moves across several states and my five career changes, she has made a huge positive impact on my life. I would be lost without her.

How do you like to spend your free time?

We live on a small hobby farm of 40 acres, so there is always something to do outside. Horses, dogs and barn cats, so there is never a dull moment.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



MCEC line outages May 2021

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
5/4/21	0:41	4	Forest Hill Lake Ln	Small Animals or Birds	East Carondelet
5/18/21	0:31	26	Saeger Rd	Maintenance	Millstadt
5/19/21	0:49	7	Triple Lakes Rd	Other, Birds or Animals	East Carondelet
5/22/21	1:16	6	Sutterville Rd	Unknown	Fults
5/25/21	4:47	2	Hay Ln	Other, Deterioration	New Athens
5/27/21	0:46	104	MM Rd	Lightning	Fults
5/27/21	1:40	2	Stage Coach Trl	Other, Deterioration	East Carondelet
5/30/21	3:42	8	Kropp Rd	Vehicles or Machinery	Millstadt

MCEC announces 2021 scholarship winners

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) was forced to postpone its 2021 Annual Meeting of Members. The new date is set for Saturday, Oct 2nd.

However, representatives of the cooperative did hold the drawing for fifteen \$500 scholarships on the morning of June 2, which was around the time the meeting would have normally been held.

The names were drawn in the board room of the cooperative office. Board chairman, George Obernagel and board members, Richard Liefer and Richard Hollis were present to help draw the names. Director of Member Services, Allan Masterson announced the winning names drawn.

The students were required to be the son or daughter of a cooperative member and be a 2021 area graduating senior. The drawing was recorded and went out on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

There was a total of twenty-three applicants this year. The winning students were:

- Donald Feick – Waterloo**
- Katie Morwick – Fults**
- Megan Morwick – Fults**
- Alex Sweeney – Smithton**
- Claire Grohmann – Red Bud**
- Claire Schultheis – Waterloo**
- Cade Smith – Smithton**
- Noah Mehner – New Athens**
- Hope Kapelski – Smithton**
- Ainsley Jacobus – Columbia**
- Michael Jacobus – Columbia**
- Blake Grohmann – Red Bud**
- Sophia Biehl – Belleville**
- Marcus Heusohn – Waterloo**
- Megan Vogt – Fults**

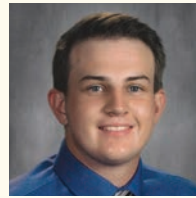
We want to thank all the students who participated and entered our scholarship drawing!



Left to right: Board Chairman, George Obernagel; Director of Member Services, Allan Masterson; board member, Richard Hollis and board member Richard Liefer.



Ainsley Jacobus



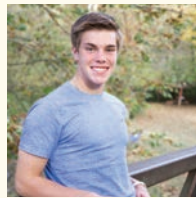
Alex Sweeney



Blake Grohmann



Michael Jacobus



Cade Smith



Claire Grohmann



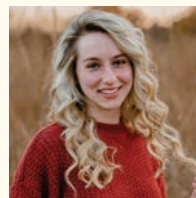
Claire Schultheis



Noah Mehner



Donnie Feick



Hope Kapelski



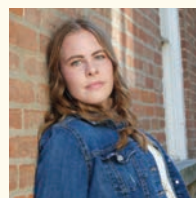
Katie Morwick



Sophia Biehl



Marcus Heusohn



Megan Morwick



Megan Vogt