


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

More power to you

By the community, for the community

When you think of October, perhaps one of the first things that come to mind are pumpkins, Halloween and the beautiful fall colors. But October also is notable for another reason—it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Monroe County Electric, celebrate who we are and, more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different from other types of businesses. When for-profit businesses decline to offer a product or service, or do so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Like how MCEC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to the rural countryside in the 1930s, cooperatives serve the common good. Your co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you—our valued consumer-members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we

are locally governed. MCEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines and are elected by neighbors like you.

A feature that sets MCEC apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." Here are just a few of the things we do to help our members and improve the communities we all call home:

- The co-op distributed \$277,500 in capital credits in 2020. Since our founding, about \$7 million has been paid to past and current members.
- Our scholarship program continues to help young people in the area realize their dream of a college education. Since 2017, we have awarded more than \$25,000 in financial aid to cooperative member students.
- Since 2009, the cooperative has awarded more than \$67,000 in Touchstone Energy Classroom

Empowerment Grants to our local schools in our community. These grants are used to help teachers with supplies, materials, new programs and any additional educational resources they may need.

- Our Co-op Connections program continues to help members save money on everyday purchases. You can get 2-for-1 restaurant deals, discounted movie and event tickets, hotel discounts, and cash-back online shopping in addition to all the healthy savings discounts available. In fact, local co-op members have saved about \$150,000 on prescription drugs through the years.

We hope you think of MCEC as more than just your energy provider because we think of you as more than just a customer. Instead, think of us as a local business that supports the communities we serve. MCEC was built by the community, for the community. Always remember that this is your co-op.



October is National Co-op Month.

Longtime board member, Larry Haas passes



It is with great sadness that we announce longtime board member, Larry Haas, 82, has died. He passed on Thursday, Aug.

12, 2021 surrounded by his family. Larry served 43 years on the board of directors for MCEC. He joined our board in March 1973 and retired off in 2016. He was also a coordinator for installation of Concordia Water Co-Op, bringing water service to rural areas of Belleville and Millstadt.

Larry had a distinguished 37-year career as an aerospace engineer with

McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace and later Boeing Aerospace, specializing in space and defense aircraft.

Left to cherish his memory are his children: Jeffery (Sharon) Haas of Belleville, Cynthia Hays of Belleville, Greg (Irene) Haas of Houston, Texas and Jeanine Dunn of Millstadt.

Services were private, but as of this time, the family is planning to hold a public celebration of life for Larry in the near future.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Larry, who served a long and much appreciated tenure as board director for Monroe County Electric Cooperative.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.



Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



MCEC line outages - August 2021

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
8/2/2021	3:30	2	S. Fork Rd	Equipment	Poe
8/5/2021	3:46	37	Brand Lake Subdv	Other, deterioration	Poe
8/12/2021	1:56	163	Columbia South/Pines Subdv	Lightning	Columbia
8/12/2021	1:44	10	Pleasant View Ln	Lightning	Fults
8/12/2021	3:08	70	Cedar Ridge Ln	Trees, other	North Waterloo
8/12/2021	2:11	5	Nottmeier Ln	Trees, other	Fults
8/13/2021	0:17	0	Oakdale School Rd	Lightning	Millstadt
8/23/2021	3:20	209	Millstadt Area	Power supplier	Millstadt
8/23/2021	3:27	208	Millstadt Area	Power supplier	Millstadt
8/23/2021	3:13	158	Millstadt Area	Power supplier	Millstadt
8/23/2021	3:27	259	Millstadt Area	Power supplier	Millstadt
8/25/2021	2:50	5	Nelson Ln	Trees, other	East Carondelet
8/26/2021	2:29	62	Imbs Station Rd	Trees, other	East Carondelet
8/30/2021	0:56	13	Schlueter German Rd	Trees, other	Smithton

Attention Educators and Administrators!

CLASSROOM GRANTS

A Commitment to Our Schools

Enter our Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Program and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education projects!

Touchstone Energy Empowerment Grants totaling \$7,500 are being funded by Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. For more information about the grant program, go to our website at mcec.org. You can also contact Julie Rohr at jrohr@mcec.org.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish
- The estimated cost of the project

- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
- Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
- When project will be completed
- The number of people affected by the project
- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community

Photos and supporting data are required. Grant applications must be received at Monroe County Electric Cooperative by Friday, November 19, 2021. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 10, 2021.



Dear MCEC,

I wanted to share with you some of the results of our livestreaming project! With the funds from the Monroe County Electric Cooperative Grant, we purchased a Mevo Start Camera, a charger, and a tripod. This allowed us to livestream our spring concerts as well as our school musical. We have even livestreamed straight from the classroom during the day, so parents can watch their children performing while they are at home or work.

Better yet, we were able to livestream the 5th grade band concert during their morning rehearsal. I am thrilled with the Mevo camera. It has been easy to use, and a huge benefit to our music program. Many would-be members of the in-person audience at the musical were very grateful that it was livestreamed so they could have the option to stay home and avoid the low temperatures. Other students reported that their long-distance relatives were able to watch them perform for the first time. Students are also thrilled that the recordings stay on YouTube, so they can revisit their performances anytime.

Thank you again for providing us with this opportunity.

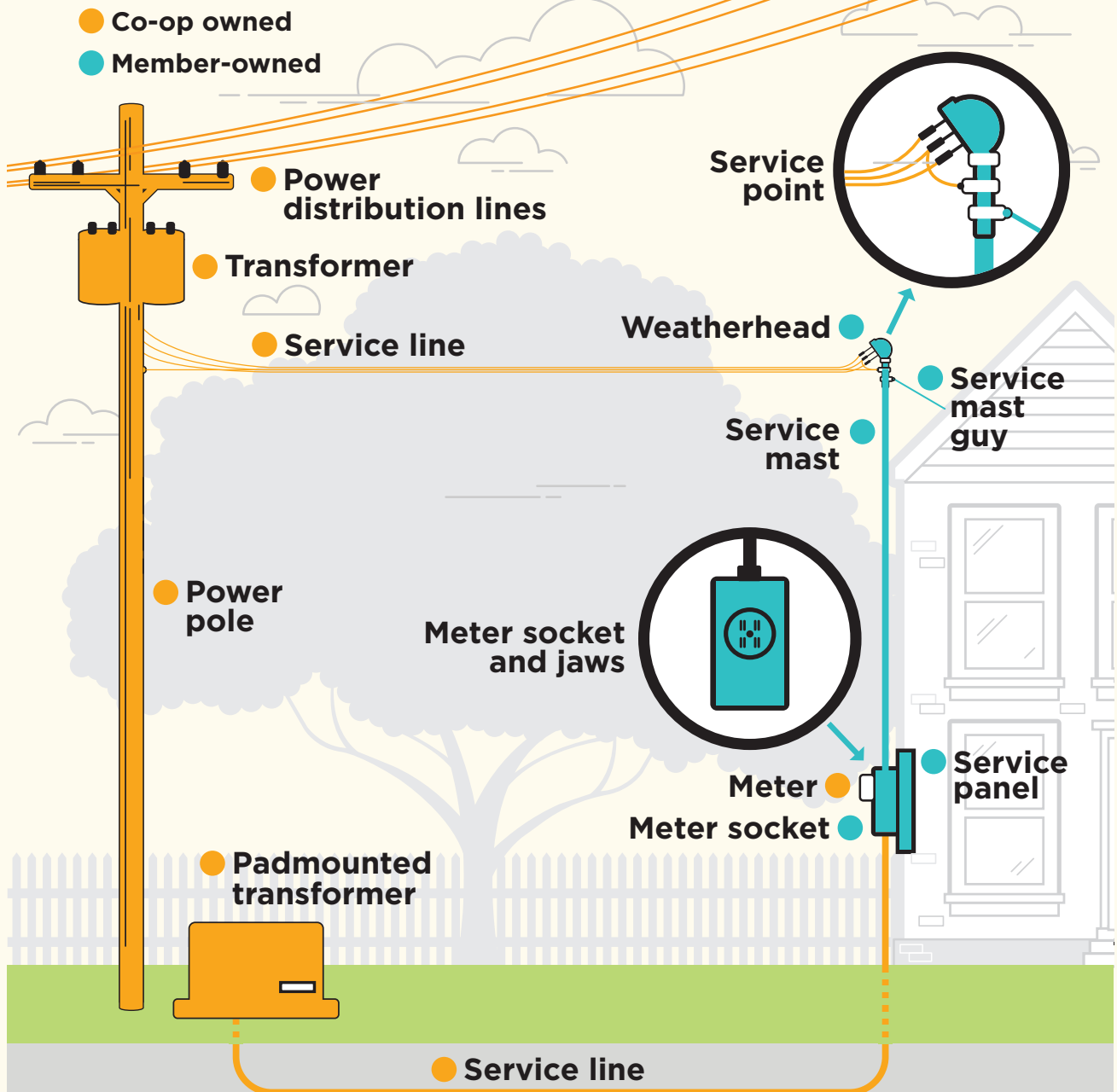
*All best,
Emily Brutton,
Valmeyer School*



Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: Monroe County Electric Cooperative is responsible for locating cooperative-owned lines. Service lines beyond the meter are considered private lines.

