

# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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

## 82nd Annual Meeting held in limited capacity

*Quentin Stenzel elected new board member for southern district;  
replaces longtime board member, Richard Liefer*



**D**ue to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the health and safety of our employees and membership, this year's annual meeting looked a little different. There were no bounce houses, petting zoo or cool balloon artists. In lieu of providing the pancake breakfast, the first 250 registered members received a **\$25 gift card** from a local restaurant that MCEC serves, and all registered members received a **\$20 bill credit** on their November 1 bill. The business meeting was conducted with 124 registered members.

During the business meeting, which started at 10 a.m., reports from 2019 and 2020 were approved, and the co-op re-elected five area men to the board of directors for a two-year or three-year term: Richard Neff and Richard Hollis from the northern district, George Obernagel and Larry Kraft from the central district, and Jeff Hoffmann from the southern district. With longtime board member Richard Liefer retiring from the board, Quentin Stenzel was elected to replace Richard for a three-year term for the southern district.

MCEC Board Chairman George Obernagel reported on the board's efforts to "adapt to the changes that are coming, whether it be with technology, legislation or climate changes." He presented retiring board member, Richard Liefer with a plaque in appreciation of his 33 years of dedicated service to the board and to the members of MCEC.

President Wattles reported on the effects of the pandemic on the cooperative as well as the financials and future of MCEC.

MCEC hopes that the annual meeting next year, which is set for June, will be back to "normal" with breakfast and fun activities for the children.



## Fourteen 2022 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 14 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says President/CEO, Alan Wattles. “Monroe County Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one.”

Eight scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A ninth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional 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.

The 14th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help



pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Julie Rohr at MCEC or visit [aiec.coop/iec-scholarship](http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship).

## Brooke Hefner joins the cooperative as accountant



Brooke is not a complete stranger to MCEC. Over the years, she has been brought in to cover a couple of short-term leaves and when a full-time position became available, she was the perfect choice. Brooke previously worked as a Senior Account Relations Coordinator at American Fidelity for four years. She has three

children: Grant (17), Garet (15) and Haven (2) and lives in Waterloo where she grew up. When she’s not at the baseball or soccer field, she enjoys traveling and reading.

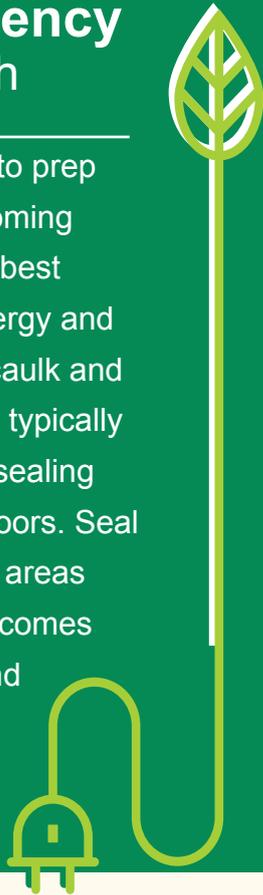
Brooke said “I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to work in the community I live and to work for such a great organization.”

**We congratulate Brooke and welcome her to the cooperative family!**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



Our office will be closed  
November 25 & 26

From our table to yours,

**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*



## MCEC line outages - September 2021

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
9/5/2021	1:19	9	Stemler Rd	Small animals or birds	Millstadt
9/5/2021	4:56	8	G Rd	Decay	Fults
9/9/2021	0:44	65	Kaskaskia Rd	Small animals or birds	Fults
9/11/2021	1:24	2	W Apple St	Small animals or birds	Smithton
9/14/2021	2:38	438	Wildwood/Robinson Sch Rd	Trees, other	New Athens
9/24/2021	2:35	20	Grant Rd	Vehicles or machinery	Fults
9/27/2021	2:40	93	Fountain Area South	Other, deterioration	Fountain



[www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org)

6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128 • Waterloo, Illinois 62298  
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

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



All  
You  
is need  
love

Sometimes just a small gesture of kindness is all that's needed to make a veteran's day.

### Here are 11 ideas:

1. Drop by with a batch of warm cookies
2. Volunteer to place American flags on veterans' graves
3. Purchase a new American flag for a veteran
4. Offer to drive to a Veterans Day event
5. Thank them for their service and ask about their service experience
6. Take magazines and books to hospitalized veterans
7. Pay a visit to a veteran's home
8. Anonymously buy lunch
9. Wear a red poppy or yellow ribbon to show your support
10. Volunteer for the Honor Flight program
11. Never forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women

*Brought to you by*

