

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Director petitions available now

Petitions are available now at the office for directors in the north, central and south board districts of Monroe County Electric Cooperative. Petitions must be signed by no less than 20 members from the district you have primary residence in and must be received in the co-op's office by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 31.

One co-op member will be elected from each district to serve a three-year term. See a map of the districts at mcec.org, and click on "About Us" and then "Board of Directors" at the top. We recommend that you call our office and have one of our employees check your district as well. Seeking re-election are incumbent directors—Richard Neff of Smithton, north district; George Obernagel of Waterloo, central district; and Jeff Hoffmann of Waterloo, southern district.

A good director must:

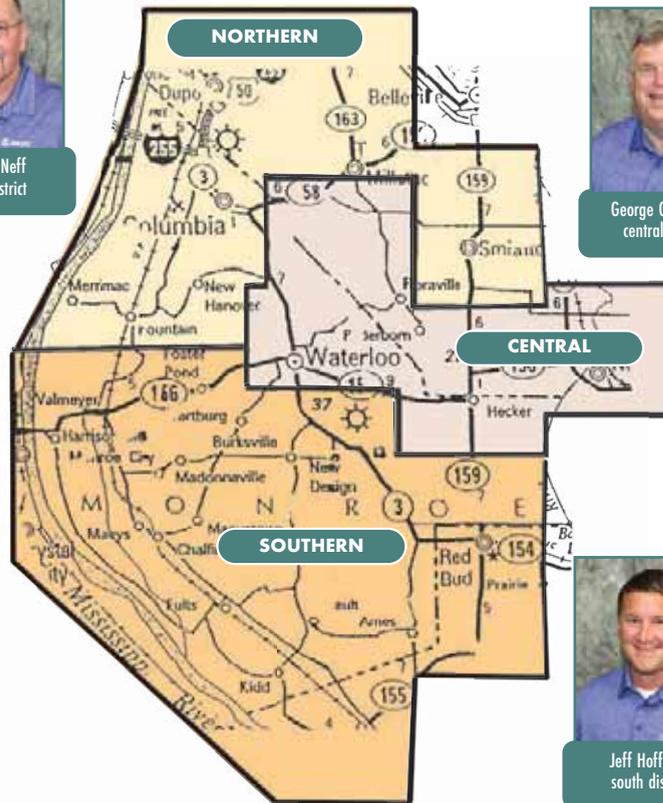
- Receive electric service from the co-op at their primary residence within the district, be a member in good standing, and not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Be able to spend adequate time on board work and attend most regular board meetings held the fourth Tuesday morning each month for several hours at the co-op office.



Richard Neff
north district



George Obernagel
central district



Jeff Hoffmann
south district

- Attend our annual meeting each year and other special board meetings, committee meetings, director's conferences and educational seminars as necessary.
- Be accessible to members within your district and willing to represent all members of the co-op.
- Acquire knowledge about the electric utility including

finances, management and public issues. (It takes time to learn the system and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)

- Establish policies and employ a general manager who is responsible for all operational details.

Additional details can be found in our bylaws.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.





Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!



www.mcec.org

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

MCEC line outages • December 2022

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
12/1/2022	1:17	152	Cedar Ridge/Gall Rd	Other, Deterioration	North Waterloo
12/1/2022	2:12	152	Cedar Ridge/Gall Rd	Other, Deterioration	North Waterloo
12/6/2022	1:04	3	R Rd	Unknown	Poe
12/6/2022	1:57	3	Mm Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Fults
12/22/2022	1:17	20	Rock Rd	Other, Deterioration	Waterloo
12/22/2022	1:37	44	Altes Rd/Wetzler Rd	Other, Deterioration	Fults
12/23/2022	1:45	1189	Red Bud Area	Other, Utilities	Poe
12/23/2022	1:45	539	Fults Area	Other, Utilities	Fults
12/23/2022	1:49	930	Waterloo Area	Other, Utilities	Waterloo
12/26/2022	2:01	50	Beck Rd/Trappers Creek Dr	Wind, Not Trees	New Athens
12/30/2022	1:21	17	G Rd	Lightning	Fults



Beat the peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, MCEC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. MCEC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including MCEC typically pay more for electricity — either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power — during those morning and evening "energy

rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it. It's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper — like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

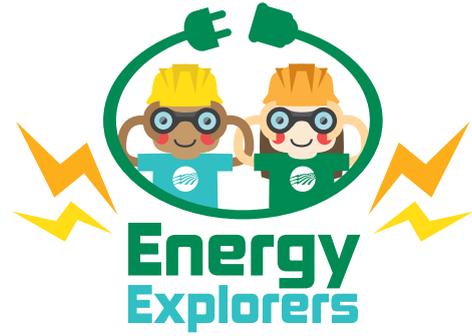
You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such

as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip and switching it off during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity usage allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy-intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE



Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the bolded text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.

1. Never place extension **rdsoc** under rugs or carpet.

2. Make sure electrical cords are not **yrafde** or broken.

3. Smoke **maalsr** should be tested every month.

4. Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **itpr** on them.

5. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **shetear**.

6. Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

Answer Key: 1) cords 2) frayed 3) alarms 4) trip 5) heaters 6) water