

WATTS *Current*

August 2019

For Our Members

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The Annual Meeting of the members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be held at the Berndes Center, 766 N. Maple Street, Monticello, Iowa, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 22, 2019, to take action upon the following matters:

- The reports of officers
- The election of three directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each
- Any other business that may legally come before the membership

Additional information:

The terms of the following directors expire upon the date of this Annual Meeting:

- Tom Stewart Region 2 (Jackson and Clinton Counties)
- Ron Thielen Region 3 (Dubuque County)
- Billie Zumbach Region 4 (Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties)

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws:

- Tom Stewart Region 2 (Jackson and Clinton Counties)
- Ron Thielen Region 3 (Dubuque County)
- Billie Zumbach Region 4 (Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties)

You are urged to attend this meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors, and transact such other business as may come before this meeting.

The Annual Meeting is conducted in English. If you are not conversant with this language and plan to attend, contact the Cooperative in advance so an interpreter can be provided. If you have any disability and need special accommodation to have a full and equal enjoyment of this program, contact the Cooperative prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

Dated at Anamosa, Iowa, this 2nd day of August, 2019.

Gene Manternach, Secretary

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting at the Berndes Center in Monticello on August 22, 2019!

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WE PAY YOU TO PULL THE PLUG

Recycle your old appliances through the Pull the Plug program. Call CLEARresult at 855-838-7817 to schedule your pickup. Please have your account number handy as you will be asked to provide it.

Appliances in working condition (runs and cools) will qualify for the following rewards:

Refrigerators: \$35 Freezers: \$25 Window Air Conditioners: \$25

Limited to three appliances per year.





Director Candidates

Region 2

Jackson and Clinton Counties



Tom Stewart
Vice President
2200 325th Avenue
Preston

Wife: Linda, Medical Social Worker,
Genesis Hospital

Son: Andrew, University of Iowa graduate

- Operates a beef, cow-calf operation, raises corn, soybeans, hay and oats; 5th generation family heritage farm, connected in 1938
- Jackson County FSA committee chair
- Jackson County Zoning board member
- First United Methodist Church member, past Administrative Council Chairman and past chair of the Youth Board
- Jackson County Farm Bureau member
- Past President of the Jackson County Cattlemen Association
- Past Chairman of the Jackson County Extension Board.
- MVEC member since 1982; Board Director since 2004; Vice President since 2017; Earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate 2006; Earned Board Leadership Certificate 2012; Director Gold Certificate 2016, 2019

Region 4

Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties



Wilhelmena (Billie) Zumbach
Director
3278 110th Avenue
Coggon

Husband: Doran

Children: 2

Grandchildren: 7

- Agriculture producer, specifically raising corn and soybeans with son, Mitchell
- Daughter, Nichole Harken, teaches communications at UNI
- West Delaware High School Graduate; Hawkeye Tech graduate; Certified Lab Assistant Degree
- Two year employee of NEIFB Association; 29 year employee Farm Management Association; Bookkeeper for Clean Wash Company in Ryan
- Member at First Lutheran Church
- Past Delaware County Porkette Board member
- Past Leader Buffalo Belles 4-H Club
- Past Good Neighbor Society President
- MVEC member since 1978; Board Director since 2010, Policy Committee; earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate 2011; Eight credits toward Board Leadership Certificate

Region 3

Dubuque County



Ron Thielen

President

946 St. Catherine Road
Bellevue

Wife: Lori, Rainbo Oil,
V.P. Strategic Initiatives
Children: Ali, Physician

Assistant in Denver, CO; Zach, Architect
in Madison, WI

- Northeast Iowa Community College, AAS in Industrial Electricity
- National Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training graduate and Journeyman Electrician since 1988
- Employee of Westphal & Company, Inc. since 1984; currently serving as Vice President
- National Electrical Contractors Association representative
 - Dubuque Division, served as Chairperson from 2010 to 2012 and currently serving on the Apprenticeship, Pension, and Health & Welfare Committees
 - Iowa Chapter, currently serving on the Statewide Board of Directors as President
- Member of St. Donatus Parish, past finance committee member
- Dubuque Area Labor Management Council, currently serving on Board of Directors
- Alliance for Construction Excellence (ACE) member
- Past Commissioner for the Governor appointed Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- MVEC member since 1988; Board Director since 2004, President since 2017; earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate 2008; earned Board Leadership Certification 2018



Summary of Articles and Bylaws Relating to Directors

Annual Meeting

Article II of the Bylaws provides that an Annual Meeting of the members shall be held between August 1 and November 1 of each year with the exact date to be set by the Board of Directors. Article VIII, Section 3 of the Articles of Incorporation indicates that the members shall be “entitled to receive ten (10) days written notice of the time and place of all meetings and of the purpose of all special meetings.”

Directors

Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation provides the Board of Directors shall be made up of nine (9) members of the Cooperative. The directors serve for a three-year term. Each year the terms of three directors expire on the date of the Annual Meeting.

Nominations and Election of Directors by the Members

Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation indicates- “The Cooperative’s service area shall be divided into four (4) numbered geographic regions. Two (2) members shall be elected from each geographic region... The remaining ninth director shall be selected from any geographic region or the geographic region determined by the Board of Directors...” The election of directors shall be by ballot and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each director to be elected. Article III, Section 5 of the Bylaws states, “Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee... Any fifty (50) or more members may make other nominations in writing... not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting...”

Please do not hesitate to contact the Cooperative office should you have any question concerning membership requirements or the procedure of nomination and election of directors at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Request for Absentee Ballot

Please send absentee ballot to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account Number: _____

Absentee Ballot may be requested no earlier than 20 days (August 2, 2019) before meeting date. Completed ballot must be received in the office at 109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, IA 52205 by **noon August 21, 2019.**





Mother Nature's Wrath

The storm we experienced on June 30th is forever etched into the minds of our employees, directors, and especially those members inconvenienced with power outages.



Straight line winds up to 100 mph impacted MVEC members throughout our service area of Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones counties. The first outage calls were received

about 5:30 p.m. on June 30th, and the final service restorations occurred the afternoon of July 2nd, making this the most significant outage we have experienced in over 25 years. The total outage hours over this two day window were higher than entire year outage hours for 13 of the last 15 years.

By the numbers:

- 7,768 meters were out of service
- Average outage duration was 4 hours 7 minutes
- Shortest outages were 6 and 7 minutes
- Three members experienced the longest outage of 40 hours 29 minutes
- 26% of the outage time was caused by transmission line problems that impacted 8 substations
- In total, 29 of MVEC's 36 substations experienced outages
- 65% of the outage time was due to trees tangled with electric lines
- 51 employees worked on outage restoration. This includes employees in the field restoring service, taking member phone calls, and working in the dispatch center. We also received assistance from linemen at a neighboring Cooperative.

Every year we boast about service reliability that is typically better than most utilities in the state. Despite our efforts to prevent and reduce outage time, we cannot always control mother nature and in this case the numerous tree branches that tore

through miles of electric lines. One tree branch can take service out for multiple members, and adds considerable time to the outage as it is cut away before re-stringing the electric line.

We cannot emphasize enough the value of planting trees away from power lines, allowing us to trim or cut trees when we see the need, or even hiring your own professional tree trimmer to protect sensitive trees.



We know those with significant health problems were concerned about how long they would be without service. Members with livestock and dairy operations should regularly test their generators in the rare event they experience an extended outage. Many members told us our service was so good they haven't needed a generator before, or they didn't bother testing the one they had on a regular basis. We always encourage our members to have a plan when situations occur that are beyond everyone's immediate control.



Thank you to every inconvenienced member, Linn County REC linemen and MVEC employees and their families who helped us through this. We sincerely appreciate every kind word our members

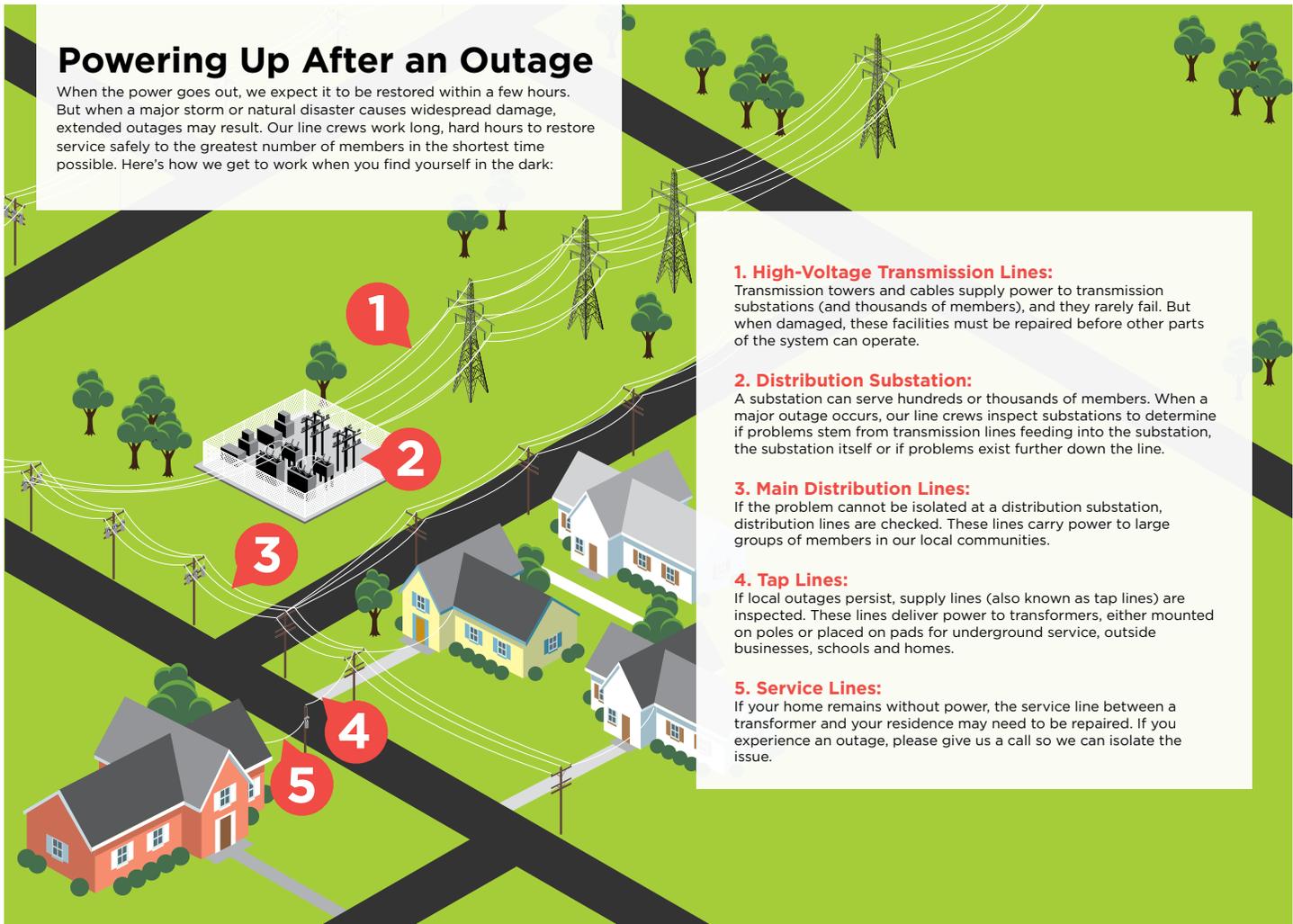
shared, and every assistance they provided. We found our Facebook page was helpful to keep members updated on the restoration progress and we know many frequently referenced the outage section of our website. We can assure you our management team met in the days immediately following the storm to determine how we can continue to improve on service reliability and outage restoration efforts to make the next storm a bit less stressful for all.

Keep up-to-date with MVEC on Facebook (Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative) and Twitter (@MVEC_IA).



Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark:



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Service Lines:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please give us a call so we can isolate the issue.

Stay Back and Stay Safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for MVEC, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their

full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize MVEC employees by the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.



The Fiber Download

What Factors Affect Your Connection Speeds?

Getting fast, reliable Wi-Fi in our home networks is essential. We connect more devices than ever to Wi-Fi, including smart phones, tablets, laptops and a growing list of smart devices. And we use them 24/7 for everything from video streaming and social media sharing to home automation and monitoring. But sometimes it seems like we're not getting the speeds we should be, such as when it takes forever to upload our holiday photos to a photo sharing site, or when Netflix freezes just when we're getting to the best part of the movie. And while it's possible that there's something wrong with your Wi-Fi setup or your Internet connection, there are other factors you should consider first before calling your service provider.

How Much Speed Do You Need?

The first thing to understand about Internet speeds is that certain minimum speeds are needed to enjoy different types of online activities. Video streaming is the best example of this. The better the video quality, the faster your Internet speed needs to be to enjoy it. Streaming companies typically publish minimum speeds for the different levels of video quality: standard definition (SD), high definition (HD) and ultra high-definition/4K. Netflix suggests a 3 Mbps service for standard definition streaming, 5 Mbps for HD and 25 Mbps for 4K. Other streaming companies, such as Hulu, make similar recommendations. Keep in mind these are minimum values, which means that even a slightly faster Internet package than the one recommended by your streaming service would likely give you better video performance.

If you are concerned about your Internet service or speeds, start with these two things. First, make sure you purchased an Internet package that's fast enough to meet your needs for streaming services and when using multiple connected devices at the same time. Second, make sure the device you're using is capable of supporting the speeds being provided by your service provider. MVlink users can easily increase their speeds with a simple request.

Is Your Device Slowing Things Down?

Apple and Android-based smart phones and tablets have maximum Wi-Fi speeds they are capable of supporting. If you connect using a smart phone that's more than three years old, you may not get an accurate picture of the download and upload speeds you're getting in your home. There are way too many devices to provide a comprehensive list here, but the first thing you should do is determine which Wi-Fi standard your device supports. See the list below to compare your device standards with maximum speeds.

Is Your Router Slowing Things Down?

Another factor that could be slowing down your speed is your router, especially if your router is three or more years old. The Wi-Fi industry is constantly updating its technology to provide users with better performance, so new routers simply work better. They're faster and provide more reliable connections. According to Juniper Networks, below is a list of maximum speeds supported by current WiFi standards, assuming ideal network conditions:

- 802.11b – 11 Mbps
- 802.11a/g – 54 Mbps
- 802.11n – 150 Mbps
- 802.11ac – 866.7 Mbps
- 802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) – 2+ Gbps

Note that these speeds represent the maximum speed you can get in theory based on the different Wi-Fi standards. These speeds are not typically achievable in real-world conditions as Wi-Fi signals are affected by obstacles in your home (e.g., large mirrors and concrete walls) as well as other devices in your home that might be transmitting wireless signals (e.g., baby monitors, cordless phones, etc.). Bottom line: if you're using an old router, it may not be capable of providing the maximum speed supported by your Internet package. If this is the case, consider a new Wi-Fi router. MVlink offers a whole home Wi-Fi mesh unit that might be just what you need.

Sites to See

Watch this section for new or popular internet sites you may want to explore.

- techcrunch.com
A technology and gadgets site with a newsletter option. Read about a robotic toothbrush or learn about a new travel experience with Airbnb Adventures.
- blog.feedspot.com/nature_blogs/
Nature enthusiasts will find top blogs and related websites.
- pbskids.org
Introduce your children to educational games and videos.

Connection Speeds Glossary of Terms

Streaming: A technology used to deliver internet content to a computer or mobile device. Streaming transmits data such as audio and video, and continues to flow so you can watch or listen continuously without waiting.

Buffering: Refers to downloading data before you actually see or hear it. If a network is fast enough, and your device can handle it, buffering can be eliminated.

Router: An internet networking device that allows data to be shared between your device and the network service you receive from your internet provider.



Commitment to Zero Contacts

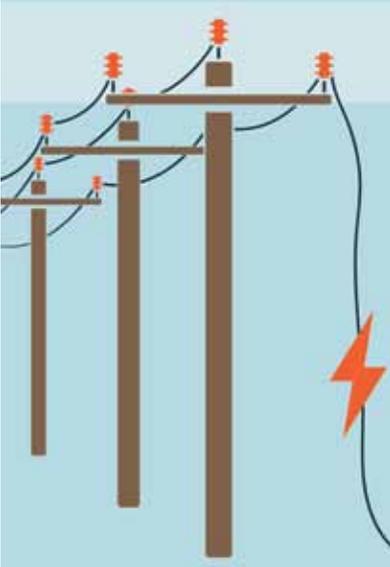
In April 2018, NRECA, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and electric co-op statewide safety leaders introduced the Commitment to Zero Contacts initiative, designed to provide cooperative CEOs, senior leaders, and field personnel with ideas and resources they need to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) due to electrical contact and enhance co-op safety programs.



“Commitment to Zero” is not a program designed to eliminate all incidents and close calls. It is focused on reinforcing rules and work processes that, when not followed, can lead to life-altering injury. At their June 2019 meeting, the MVEC board of directors voted to join the Commitment to Zero Contacts nationwide initiative and employees signed Commitment to Zero Contacts agreements in July.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE



Power lines can come down for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones. When lines do go down there are precautions you need to take to stay safe:

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines **do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.**
- Stay at least **10 feet** away from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, **remain in the vehicle** until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- **If there is a fire** or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

Always treat a downed power line as live and never touch any wire that is down. Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.

Watts The Answer?

1. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, _____ 22, 2019.
 2. Registration for the Annual Meeting begins at ____ a.m. The Business Meeting will start at ____ p.m.
 3. _____ transmits data such as audio and video, and continues to flow so you can watch or listen continuously without waiting.
- Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to erobertson@mvec.coop.

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bills.

Please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

June winners:
 Aaron James, Maquoketa
 Donna Kluesner, Peosta



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

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319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

Summer Office Hours (May 28-August 30, 2019)
Monday-Thursday • 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday • 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

After Hours Call Center: 800-582-8998

Visit Our Websites
www.mvec.coop www.mvlink.coop
 Like Us On Follow Us On

Email direct to the following departments:

Billing Questions	billing@mvec.coop
Fiber Questions	fiber@mvec.coop
Product or Service Questions	memberservices@mvec.coop
Maintenance Issues	maintenance@mvec.coop
Dividend Questions	patronage@mvec.coop
New Service Questions	engineering@mvec.coop
Management	management@mvec.coop

Understanding Your Electric Bill

On-Peak hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Off-Peak hours are Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight
These times are in effect every day.