

# WATTS *Current*

September 2021

For Our Members

## Annual Meeting Held

MVEC's annual meeting of the members was held in Monticello on August 19th. Through mail-in ballots and in-person attendance, 1,200 members participated in the governance of the Cooperative they own. Voting members were entered into a drawing for cash prizes totaling \$2,000 and those who attended in-person were treated to a roasted pork meal. During the meeting, CEO Jeremy Richert discussed how the Cooperative managed through the pandemic and the Derecho, and informed members on the status of the MVlink broadband efforts and its impact on service reliability while continuing to maintain affordable rates for both electricity and internet services. Richert also addressed the community benefits of MVEC's economic development success, and shared the efforts of the Cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO, to provide a diverse and environmentally friendly energy portfolio. President Ron Thielen reported on the results of the director election indicating Jan Null and Larry Swanson were re-elected to regions 1 and 4, respectively and that Charles McCullough was re-elected to serve region 3. During the Board of Directors re-organizational meeting, the following directors were elected to officer positions as follows: President, Ron Thielen; Vice President, Tom Stewart; Secretary, Gene Manternach, Treasurer, Judy Gotto and Assistant Secretary, Charles McCullough.



## Annual Meeting Prize Winners

MVEC awarded \$2,000 in cash prizes to randomly-selected members who returned their Annual Meeting ballot.

*Ronnie Bachman, Manchester*  
*Alverda M. Beck, Preston*  
*William/Stacey Borrenpohl, La Motte*  
*Jessica Bushman, Dubuque*  
*Dale Clemen, Dubuque*  
*Keith Crooks, Dubuque*  
*Cleta Deppe, Bellevue*  
*Decker Evelyn, Zwingle*  
*Larry Feldmann, Manchester*  
*Donald Gaul, Guttenberg*  
*Philip D. Gent, Monmouth*  
*David/Carol Hammerand, Sherrill*  
*Diane Hannan, Holy Cross*  
*Lorraine Herman, Maquoketa*  
*Verna Mae Johannes, Dyersville*

*Dorothy Jones, Wyoming*  
*Anthony Kalb, Dubuque*  
*Shirley Koltes, Sherrill*  
*Janice Meyers, Worthington*  
*Ehrlich Nancy, Peosta*  
*Steven/Norma Round, Maquoketa*  
*Corey Schmitt, Peosta*  
*David Steiner, Maquoketa*  
*John Strang, Cascade*  
*Daryl/Karen Swanson, Maquoketa*  
*Kyle Tatro, Anamosa*  
*Sandra Vaske, Farley*  
*Norma Vaughn, Dubuque*  
*Dena/Travis Voss, Dubuque*  
*Kenneth Welty, Onslow*  
*Eugene White, Worthington*  
*Kevin White, Dubuque*  
*Herbert Zumbach, Ryan*

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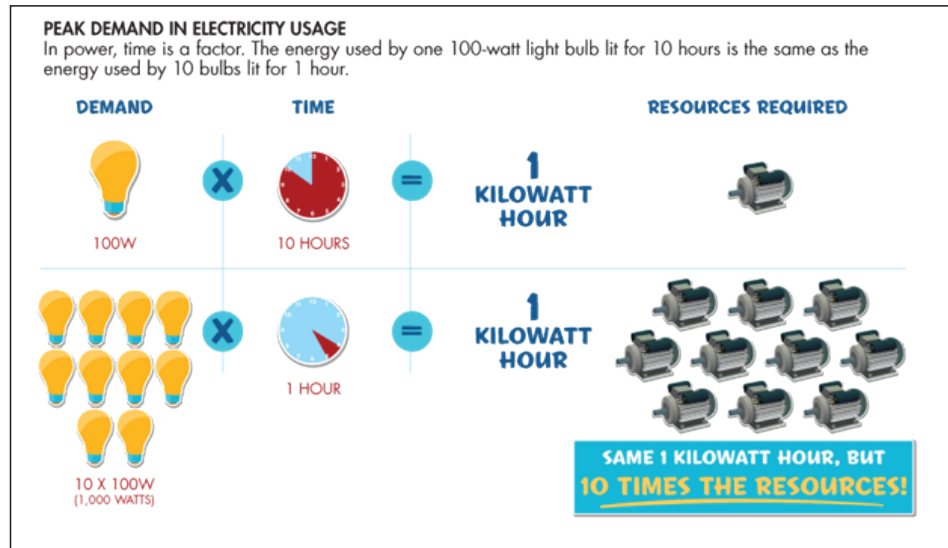
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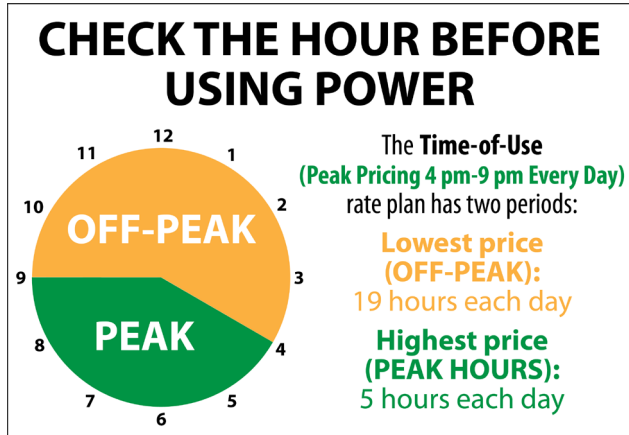


# Understanding Energy Demands

Electric energy demand (measured in kilowatts or kW) is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running in your home at a specific point in time. Think about it like your Internet service. When one person streams a movie or television show on a device in your home, the stream works perfectly. But as additional people in your home attempt to stream videos at the same time, more bandwidth is needed to accommodate everyone using the service. Electricity demand (kW) is similar. As more appliances in your home run simultaneously, your demand for power increases. For example, ten 100-watt light bulbs demand 1,000-watts (1 kilowatt) of electricity (10x100) to stay lit. Certain appliances - such as HVAC units, electric ovens and electric clothes dryers demand significant power from the grid. The higher the demand for energy placed on MVEC and our power supplier during peak times of the month, the higher the expenses are for our cooperative. This in turn drives up the cost for all members. That's why not running



all of your electrical devices at the same time is important to minimize the Demand Charge from our power supplier. The Peak Demand window for MVEC is generally 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use their appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more for MVEC and ultimately for you our members. The graphic illustrates this concept, and why managing kW demand has a positive effect on the power grid.



*Patty Manuel, Director of Public Relations*

A long-standing employee, Patty Manuel, Director of Public Relations, retired at the end of August, after forty-three years serving the Members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Patty began her employment with MVEC in January 1978. Patty held many different positions within the company over her noteworthy career. From coordinating Annual Meetings and Member Appreciation events, overseeing billing processes and member communication, promoting the Coop's interests with the governor and Iowa's legislators, to serving on local/statewide boards and coordinating new business development in the service area, Patty has been an instrumental part of MVEC's growth in so many ways. Her talents will be missed, and her many contributions are greatly appreciated. If you see Patty on the golf course or out shopping, wish her the best on her retirement; she earned it.

**MVEC Welcomes** Christie Remley, Manager of Communications & Public Relations. Christie can be reached at 800-927-6068 or [cremley@mvec.coop](mailto:cremley@mvec.coop)



## Student Leadership Opportunity

Guided by our Cooperative's commitment to community, MVEC has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve. Now, Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to offer a new opportunity for our rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative careers and the cooperative business model through a three-part webinar series to kick off in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area (Jackson, Jones, Delaware and Dubuque counties), and they are invited to register for the series at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com).

*"This new program is designed for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked CEO Jeremy Richert. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric cooperative's power people's lives and empower our communities. We also want to talk about career paths that are available in our smaller communities."*

When students register online for the Academy, they can attend webinars from their own computer or mobile device with each Zoom session lasting 45-60 minutes.

- Oct. 5, 7:00pm** – Cooperative Business Model
- Oct. 14, 7:00pm** – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Oct. 26, 7:00pm** – Civic Involvement and Leadership


At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. Please help us spread the word to our area high school students and encourage their participation in these leadership sessions.



**WANTED:**  
Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership


Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!  
Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)





### Watts Green

Renewable Energy Program



Because you care...

Today's changing energy landscape is bringing more attention to renewable energy resources. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative supports generation that is safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible.





**Watts Green** - Green renewable energy is electricity produced in an environmentally friendly manner. Sources of green energy include the sun, wind, and water, which are pollution free and naturally reoccurring.

Renewable electricity technologies are among the cleanest and have the least impact on the environment.

Some of the renewable energy that is sold to our members is purchased from other members who have renewable energy systems.

**Costs** - The price for new green power is slightly higher than power generated from conventional sources such as coal. MVEC's Watts Green Renewable Energy Program enables you to support renewable energy by paying a small premium on your bill. The extra cost is currently 2 cents per kilowatt hour, or \$1 for a 50 kilowatt hour block, which is applied only to that portion of renewable energy that is chosen.

**Benefits**

-  **Quick to market.**
-  **No air emissions.**
-  **Needs no water.**
-  **Zero fuel costs.**

To participate in the Watts Green Renewable Energy Program, detach and complete the form below. The form can be returned with your energy bill or mailed separately to:

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

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! Enroll me in the Watts Green Renewable Energy Program. I hereby request that Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative bill to my account \_\_\_\_\_ kWhs (blocks of 50 kWhs only) at the renewable energy rate each month according to MVEC's tariff. The current price is \$1.00 per 50 kWh block above the standard rate. I will be notified at least 30 days in advance of any price change, and may terminate this enrollment at any time by notifying MVEC.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## MVEC's MVlink Hits a Home Run at Historic Field of Dreams Game

In 2016, when Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) launched MVlink, our fiber internet service, we did not know that a mere five years later we would be supplying internet to one of the most anticipated (and watched) baseball games in recent history. For the inaugural game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville on August 13, BaAM, the production company that built the infrastructure for the big

provided. Organizers commented that putting this game on in such a rural area was one of the most challenging things they have done, but MVEC's piece



was not one they had to worry about.

“We had a vision for MVlink several years ago and invested in smart grid technology to improve our electric service to members. Because we invested in this technology, it has allowed



us to extend our service to fiber internet providing members in rural Iowa with the fastest internet speeds available. The Field of Dreams project was another opportunity to showcase MVlink's capabilities. I am really proud of our whole team's effort to provide flawless service in a challenging environment—event organizers built an 8,000-seat baseball stadium in the middle of an Iowa corn field—MVlink made their jobs a little easier and gave them one less thing to worry about. Once again, we were able to step up and meet the needs of those we work for,”

Jeremy Richert, CEO, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

game, relied heavily on MVlink's services. Through MVlink's 10 gigabit Network, BaAM in turn provided services to Fox Sports for production. MVEC also facilitated connections that carried all voice connections for the event and also served an 8 gigabit connection to a temporary cell tower erected to handle the influx of fans.

“Due to the size of the production and Dyersville's rural location, this project posed several challenges for event organizers. MVEC's Fiber, Technical Services and IT teams worked diligently and innovatively to design and deploy a rock solid fiber internet network capable of serving extremely high volume usage. The end result was that the MVlink network performed flawlessly, as expected,” said Jeff Geistkemper, Fiber Plant Manager, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

The entities responsible for this high-visibility project were very complimentary of not only the quality of the network connection but also the quality of customer service MVEC



*MVlink's Fiber Installer Brian Westhoff*







## Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous - even deadly - when farming near electrical equipment. Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery.

If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deploy flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulky materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



Feeling stressed this harvest season?

## WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Breakdowns. Long hours. Setbacks. There is no way to predict what harvest will bring.

Have your PLAN in place to manage your stress for a safe and healthy harvest.



### Prepare for the season

With preparation, some stress can be avoided. Anticipate the demands of harvest and plan ahead. For example, prep healthy meals, fuel equipment and perform routine maintenance ahead of schedule. **What can you do to prepare?**



### Lean on loved ones

Seeking support from others rather than taking on everything yourself can help reduce stress. Text or call a friend or family member when you need support. **Whom can you lean on?**



### Activate coping mechanisms

Coping mechanisms can help manage stress. They include engaging in physical activity, finding ways to make yourself laugh and carving out time for hobbies. **Which coping mechanisms will you use?**



### Nip negative self-talk

Negative self-talk leads to decreased morale and feelings of hopelessness. When your inner critic nags, be kind to yourself and remember thoughts are not reality. **How will you tell your inner critic to take a hike?**

Content developed by Josie M. Rudolphi and Courtney Cuthbertson, University of Illinois Extension





# TECH LINK

## MVlink WiFi Experience

MVlink offers a whole home (or small business) WiFi for an additional \$4.95 per month.

## Setting up your WiFi and App

### Getting started with the app

The app allows you to manage your home or small business WiFi network. You can self-install and be managing your home or business within a few minutes. Download the app and start managing your home network today!

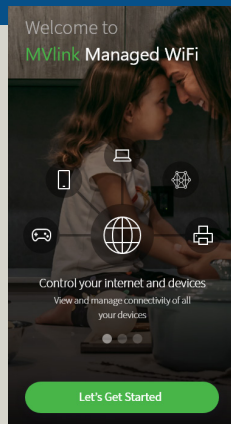


Search for MVlink Managed WiFi app in either the Apple App or Google Play store.



Download and install then select "Let's Get Started"

"Let's Get Started"

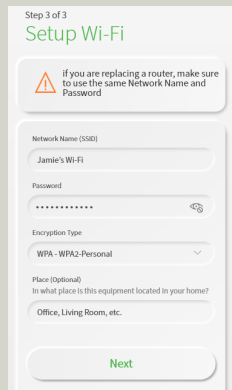


**3** First-time users will be asked to name your network and create a password.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend no spaces in either the SSID (Network) name or the password as some connected devices will not recognize the space(s).

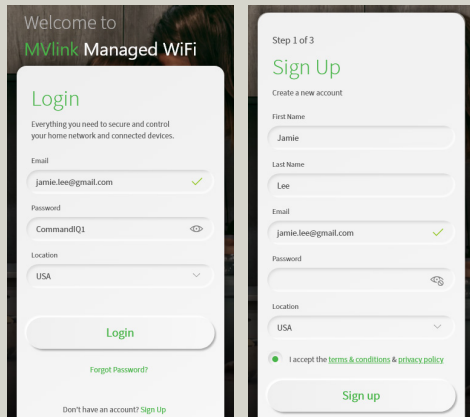
- Your network name will be used throughout the app and will be your wireless connection name.

**Note:** If you are replacing a router, we suggest using the same network name to ensure all devices effectively connect.



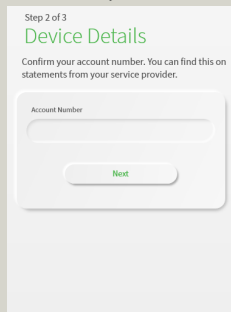
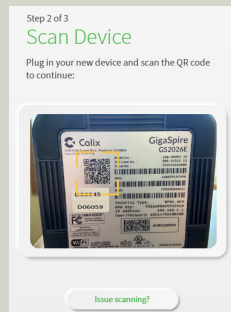
**1**

Setup your personal login by selecting "SIGN UP" at the bottom of the screen.



**2**

Plug in your MVlink router and wait several minutes for it to register and light up. You will be prompted to allow this app to access your camera. Point your camera at the QR Code on your MVlink WiFi Router.

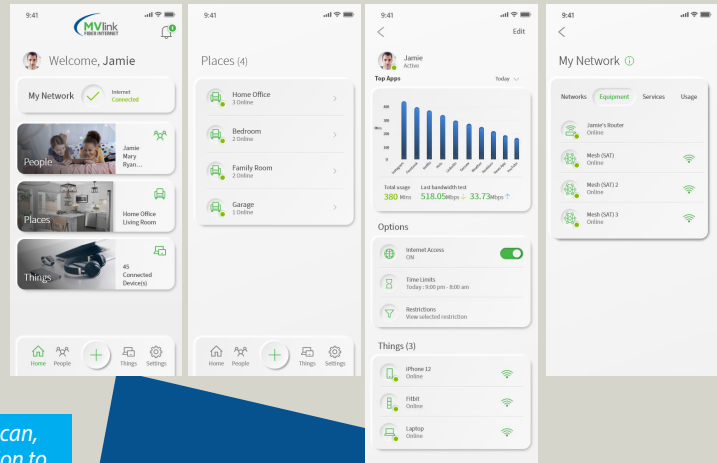


If you are unable to scan, you will have an option to manually enter the serial number found on your router. There is also an alternative MAC address.

You will be asked to confirm your account number which is located on your statement or work order.

## Congratulations!

You are now on your way to managing your home's WiFi. You can easily add family members to your network, identify connected devices, test your speed and so much more.



## Mesh WiFi For Expanded WiFi Coverage

Combined with MVlink's router, will extend your network even further than a router alone, for a complete managed solution.





This year, the back-to-school season will have special significance for many teachers, students, and parents. We applaud everyone for meeting the challenges of last year and wish you all the best as classes resume.

**Back-to-school Backpacks**

To help avoid back issues for your child, make sure you choose a backpack that weighs no more than 10-15 percent of their body weight when filled and hangs no more than four inches below the waistline. Remind your child to wear both straps not just one, to distribute the weight evenly.



**Healthy and Fun Lunchbox Ideas!**

If you want to give the kids something to look forward to at lunchtime that isn't the old standby PB&J, try these healthy and fun lunchbox alternatives:

- Banana Sushi (banana, peanut butter (or Nutella) in a flour tortilla)
- Lunch Kabobs (mini sandwiches (or cheese) and your child's favorite fruit)
- Bento Boxes (use a fun divided container to hold veggies, cheeses, fruit, crackers and your child's favorite dip)
- Pinwheel Rollups (pack a tortilla with cheeses, meats, veggies and cream cheese or sauce)

For more recipes and inspiration, check out Jungle Roots ([www.jungleroots.com/post/20-fun-and-healthy-back-to-school-lunchbox-ideas](http://www.jungleroots.com/post/20-fun-and-healthy-back-to-school-lunchbox-ideas))

**Is Your Internet Back-To-School Ready?**

Contact us if your internet needs a boost to support your student's learning activities or if you want to make the switch to our high speed fiber internet, MVlink. Visit [mvec.coop](http://mvec.coop) or call us today 800-927-6068.

**Watts The Answer?**

1. As more appliances in your home run simultaneously, your demand for \_\_\_\_\_ increases.
2. "This new program is designed for rural Iowa \_\_\_\_\_ who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked CEO Jeremy Richert.
3. The end result was that the MVlink network performed \_\_\_\_\_, as expected," said Jeff Geistkemper, Fiber Plant Manager, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to [efletcher@mvec.coop](mailto:efletcher@mvec.coop)

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

Please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_

June winners:  
 Roger Brehm, Earlville  
 Nicole Koetz, Durango



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

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**Happy Labor Day**  
MVEC will be closed  
**Monday, September 6th**  
in observance of Labor Day

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**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**  
MVEC will observe summer hours  
thru October 1st, 2021  
Monday-Thursday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM




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**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills.

By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.



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

## 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.*

## Watts Current

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**[www.mvec.coop](http://www.mvec.coop)**  

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Electric Service: [maintenance@mvec.coop](mailto:maintenance@mvec.coop)  
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