

WATTS *Current*

July 2022

For Our Members

Join Us for MVEC's In-Person Annual Meeting!

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 18th at the Berndes Center in Monticello. The August issue of Watts Current will include MVEC's Annual Report, director candidate biographies, and election information for voting via mail or in-person at the Annual Meeting. The combination of an in-person meeting, with the option to vote by mail for directors, allows for greater member participation in the cooperative. All details will be addressed in the official Annual Meeting packet to be mailed to members in early August (it will come in the form of your Watts Current).

Participating in MVEC's Annual Meeting provides you an opportunity to network with fellow members, MVEC staff, employees and Directors. In addition, MVEC's CEO Jeremy Richert and Board President Ron Theilen will share updates on the Co-op and you will have a chance to vote for directors. Plus, enjoy lunch and win prizes.



"MVEC's Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for our members to come together to meet employees, hear updates on co-op business and network with each other. The cooperative business model means the co-op is member-owned and governed - Annual Meeting is one avenue for members to exercise their participation,"
said Jeremy Richert, CEO, MVEC

SAVE THE DATE
In-person Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2022
Monticello Berndes Center

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Plug-in Electric Vehicles

Current gas prices might have you seriously contemplating an Electric Vehicle (EV). As you weigh the pros and cons for your specific situation, here are a few things to consider:

- What is your budget? Consider initial outlay for the electric vehicle as well as total cost of ownership. Per a recent story on CNBC, using February 2022 data, Jeffries analyst David Kelley recently calculated that the total lifetime cost of ownership of an EV is about \$4,700 less than that of an internal-combustion vehicle.
- What range do you require/what is the distance of your typical commute? This answer also affects the size of battery (and investment) you will need.
- Where will you charge your EV? Are there any charging stations on your daily commute or typical travel route? Or will you charge your EV at home?
- If you're planning to charge your EV at home (which is optimal as you can charge overnight during off-peak hours), is your home wired for a Level II charger? You will need a 200-amp panel to accommodate a Level II charger. If you're building a new home in the near future, work with your electrician to future-proof your home for EVs and other electric amenities. If you are considering adding a Level II charger to an existing home, contact MVEC to verify the transformer serving your home/business is adequately sized.
- Explore incentives for EVs and EV chargers. MVEC offers a rebate for members who install Level II chargers. Visit mvec.coop/rebates to learn more. There may also be Federal tax incentives for eligible vehicles up to \$7,500 - the amount varies based on the capacity of the battery of the car as well as the brand. Visit www.energy.gov/electric/eere/electricvehicles

Let Us Count the Ways (They Work)

Not all electric cars are created equal. Here are the four main types of electric cars:



HEVs

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) have been on the market the longest. HEVs include a small battery pack that is not charged by plugging it in, but rather the pack is charged by the internal combustion engine or the braking process. HEVs are not powered solely by batteries at any given time.



BEVs a.k.a. EVs

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) (also known as EVs) do not rely on any gasoline to run and have zero tailpipe emissions. EV operators plug their vehicles into their home electric grid or a public charging station to charge. BEVs also generate electricity from braking, similar to HEVs, and use this as a secondary energy source.



PLUG-INS

Plug-in hybrid EVs run on both battery power and gasoline and have much smaller battery packs than BEVs. The all-battery range in these vehicles is typically between five and 30 miles, and then the internal combustion engine is responsible for anything beyond that. Plug-in hybrids reduce emissions for short trips around town; longer trips are powered by gasoline.



REHs

Range Extender Hybrid EVs (REHs) function the same way as plug-ins, but they have higher battery ranges due to design differences. Examples include the BMW i3 and the discontinued Chevrolet Volt. Some can drive more than 50 miles on a single charge.

 **Safe Electricity.org** LEARN MORE AT:

Temporary Change to MVEC Billing Envelope

Our envelope provider continues to face supply shortages so your MVEC bill will come in a brown recycled paper envelope through August. Watch your mail for the envelope pictured instead of our traditional white envelope. As a reminder, MVEC electric bills are sent out around the 8th day of each month, so please be on the lookout for the brown paper envelope that contains your latest bill.





MVlink Survey Results

This past spring, we sent out email invitations to MVEC members inviting them to participate in a survey on awareness of, perceptions of and satisfaction with MVlink fiber internet. We received more than 1,600 responses and thank those who participated for their time and input. This feedback will help shape marketing messaging to prospective MVlink subscribers and improve service and communication with existing MVlink members. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive: 95% of respondents said MVlink met or exceeded their expectations and 97% of respondents would recommend MVlink to others.

MVEC launched MVlink six years ago after having invested in Smart Grid Technology to improve electric grid reliability. This investment provided both the technology to improve communications with the grid and the infrastructure to establish a broadband footprint across our service area.

MVlink is a fiber-to-the-home connection providing the fastest, most reliable internet service on the market. MVlink packages start at 85 mbps for \$59.95/mo. with up to 1 Gb (gig) available. And, as with electric membership, members earn patronage or money back based on what they spend on internet. Learn more at mvec.coop/mvlink-internet or call 800-927-6068.



June MVEC Board Update

- Received an update on the status of MVlink 2022 construction projects.
- Discussed the status of the ongoing wholesale power contract negotiations.
- Reviewed the end of 2022 Iowa Legislative Session status of legislative bills that impact the Cooperative.
- Discussed NERC's 2022 Summer Reliability Report and the potential impact of generation shortages on Iowa and MVEC members.
- Discussed the impact supply chain issues are having on the Coop's ability to procure materials.
- Approved the early purchase of 2023 metering equipment due to longer than normal lead times.
- Discussed the results of the Safety Accreditation review that was recently completed to evaluate the effectiveness and culture of MVEC's safety program.

A Summer of Extremes Could Impact MVEC Members

According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment, conditions could exist this summer that result in the demand for power exceeding the available generation across a 15 state region that includes Iowa and could impact the services to MVEC members.

Under normal summer conditions, members will continue to experience the high levels of reliability they have come to expect from MVEC. However, in certain extreme conditions, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), has indicated they may be forced to initiate temporary controlled load reductions. MISO acts like an air traffic controller of the electric grid to manage real-time generation within its footprint across the middle U.S. and parts of Canada. If needed, there are several steps of the load reduction process up to and including rolling blackouts as the last and final step. During a rolling blackout situation, each utility in the MISO region could be requested to shut off a small percentage of its feeders for an anticipated duration of 1 to 2 hours. All utilities within MISO's 15 state footprint are similarly affected and are working to mitigate the potential for rolling blackouts to occur.

Why is this happening now? - Items that have contributed to the shortage of generation include coal and nuclear plants being retired faster than new generation resources are being installed, new generation sources have been mostly wind and solar which have intermittent availability, transmission lines and facilities being down for maintenance or due to storm damage, and energy consumption continuing to return to pre-COVID levels in the industrial and commercial sectors.

How can members make a difference? - There are measures you can take to help reduce the potential for controlled temporary outages:

- Run your electric washer/dryer during off-peak times before 4 p.m. or after 9 p.m.,
- Raise your air conditioner's thermostat a few degrees,
- Substitute air conditioner use with fans to keep cool

How can members stay informed? - Notice from MISO that a load reduction event is required could range from an hour to more than a day. If provided enough notice, MVEC will make efforts to contact our members who would be directly impacted. MVEC members should continue to monitor announcements on MVEC's social media feeds. Make sure MVEC has your current contact information, including mobile phone and email.



MEMBER MEET UP AT THE DELAWARE COUNTY FAIR

Have fun and take a selfie
in our booth and tag
MVEC on Facebook

4-8 PM
JULY 12



MVEC is coming to the Delaware County Fair
in Manchester!

See our MVEC bucket truck and EV Rider in the
opening night parade on Monday, July 11th.
Then, come by our booth on Tuesday, July 12th
from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Pick up Fair Bucks,
win a prize, learn about MVlink fiber internet
and meet MVEC team members.

Stop by our booth and then head over to the Harlem Wizards Trick Hoops
and Alley Oops basketball game. Tip-off is at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 12th.
See MVEC's own CEO Jeremy Richert play on the Home Team against the
Harlem Wizards. Fun, entertainment style basketball for
the whole family.

Carnival Ride Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
3:00-10:00pm



CHILDREN
Ages 1-11

\$3

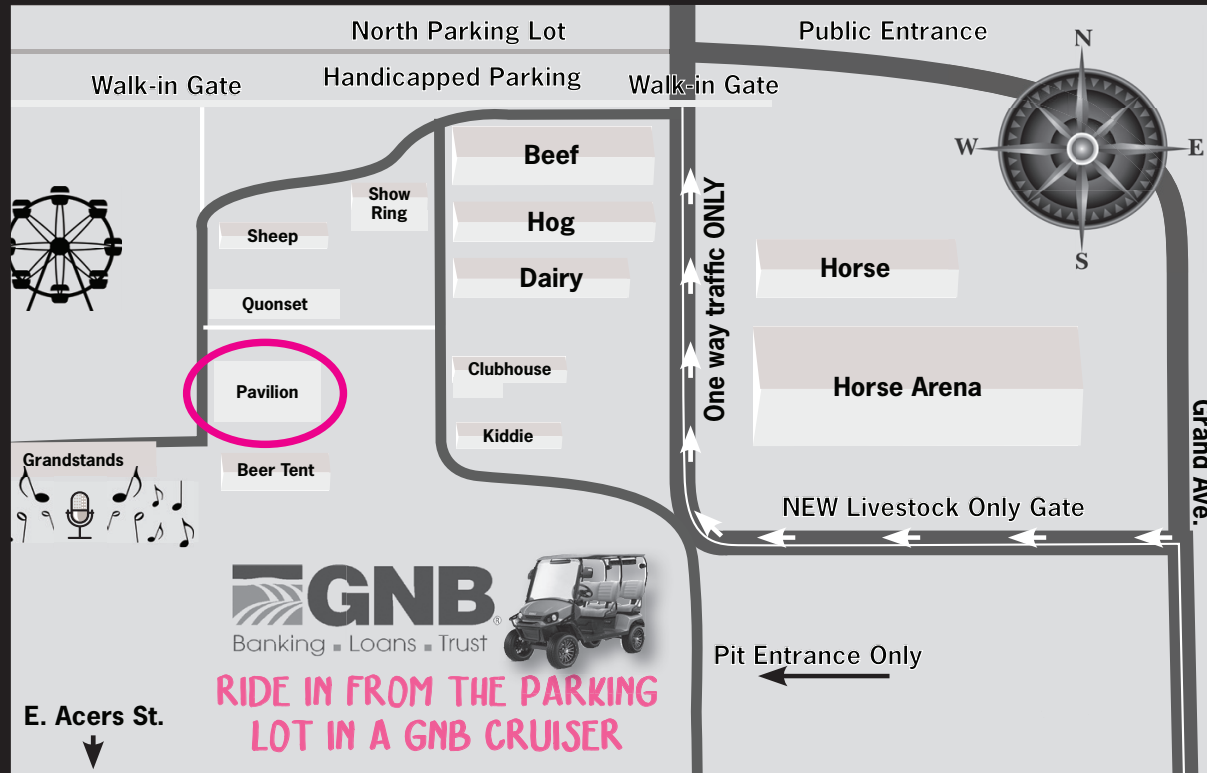
Daily
Admissions:

ADULTS
12 & over

\$12



DELAWARE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



4:00pm Farmer For A Day
Chores Family Fun Zone
5:00-6:30pm Agronomy
Exhibit Check-In
Small Animal Barn
5:30pm
Chainsaw Carving Show
≈6:00pm Kiddie Lamb Show
Farm Bureau Show Ring
6:00pm
Big Bee Transformer
6:00pm **BARREL RACING** Horse Arena
6:30pm Pirates of the
Columbian Caribbean
7:00pm 4-H/FFA
Agronomy Judging Small
Animal Barn
7:00pm **HARLEM WIZARDS PRO BASKETBALL GAME**
Grandstand
7:00pm
Chainsaw Carving Show
8:00pm
Big Bee Transformer
8:00pm Farmer For A Day
Chores Family Fun Zone
9:00pm Gateway Appliance
Exhibit Center Closes

VISIT OUR BOOTH

Find us at the NW corner of the Pavilion

- * Pick-up your Fair Bucks
- * Win a Prize
- * Learn about Mvlink
- * Ask us questions



7:00pm
HARLEM WIZARDS PRO BASKETBALL GAME
Grandstand

Free with
Fair Admission





TECH LINK

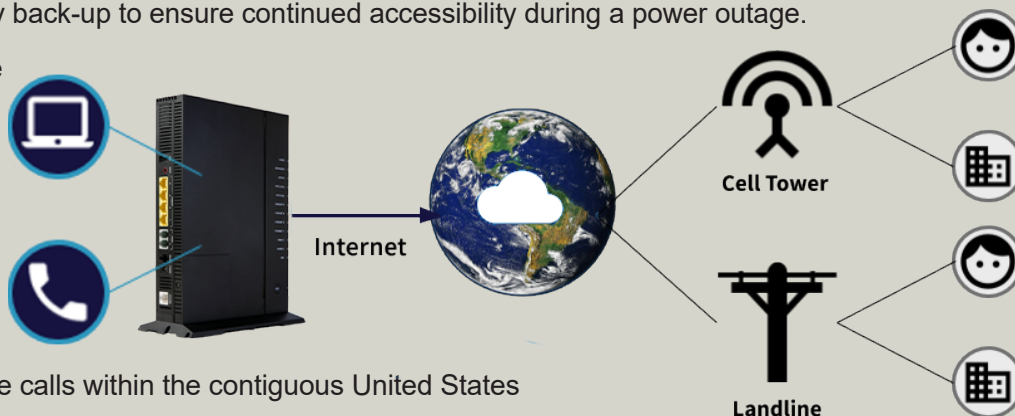
Leverage Your MVlink Internet Service and Convert Your Home Telephone to VoIP (Voice Over the Internet Protocol)

Along with high-speed internet service, members can also enjoy unlimited long distance telephone service from MVEC. Voice over the Internet (Protocol), or VoIP service, means telephone service can be supplied through a broadband internet connection for making and receiving calls instead of an analog telephone line. Instead of plugging into a wall telephone jack, the phone plugs directly into the internet router just as a computer does. Most members are able to retain their current telephone number and their current telephone(s). The service includes a free, 8-hour battery back-up to ensure continued accessibility during a power outage.

Residential telephone service is only \$34.95 per month when bundled with MVlink internet service (cost is \$49.95 if not bundled).

VoIP members receive all of the following features:

- Voicemail to Email
- Unlimited local calls
- Unlimited long distance calls within the contiguous United States
- Call Waiting
- Caller ID
- Call Forwarding



For members needing dedicated fax lines, an additional line can be added for \$14.95 per month. Businesses needing multiple extensions or services can contact MVEC for a customized telephone service solution.

The Benefits of VoIP

With telephone service from MVlink, members can generally continue using their existing telephone and phone number to make and receive calls. Users will find the clearest connections when plugged directly into the router versus an old copper-wired telephone jack. VoIP is easy to use, provides a clear connection, can be set up in minutes and offers many features such as voicemail to email, call waiting and caller identification.

With MVlink's telephone service, members can call anyone in the world provided there is an internet connection for all parties. MVlink allows unlimited calls, making communications easier, faster and less expensive.

With MVlink Fiber Internet	\$34.95/month*
Without MVlink Internet	\$49.95/month*
Add Fax Line	\$14.95/month*

*Plus applicable taxes

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Unlimited local calls
- Unlimited long distance for calls within the Continental United States; excluding Alaska and Hawaii
- Voicemail to Email
- Call Waiting
- Caller ID
- Call Forwarding





MVEC Participating in National Survey on the Cooperative Difference

MVEC is committed to providing members with the highest level of service. To that end, we are once again participating in Touchstone Energy's National Survey on the Cooperative Difference. Randomly selected members will be contacted during the month of July by a third-party market research firm either via phone or email to participate in a brief survey to help us better understand member household needs. Your feedback is essential to ensuring that the co-op invests in areas that members value most. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Outstanding Patronage Dividend Checks

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 North Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, has abandoned property that results from patronage dividend checks issued in 2019 for the cooperative members listed here. If this property is not claimed within three years from the original check date, it will be forfeited to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative according to Iowa law. To see if your name is on the list of uncashed patronage checks, visit: www.mvec.coop/patronage-dividends.

Nicholas Steffens
Robert Dolan
Gene Goetzinger
George Burke
Irene Smith
Leroy Altergott
Ronald Neumann
Charles Gassman
Sylvester Engler
Gene Camp
Michael Cole
Barbara Lundwig
Roger Joyner
Fred Kammiller
William Bockenstedt
Joseph Puccio
Robert Perlewitz
Mike Inglis
Reta Blizek
George Balichek

Ruth Pitman
Doris Wessel
Michele Pitts
Ronald Lacoste
Loyd Poppe
Dean Manemann
Joseph Hoffmann
Shelia Maro
Brain Johnson
Raymond Hartmann
Jill Mackey
Bruce Larkin
Charles White
Eugene Monahan
Diane Walton
Joe Potter
William Pataska
Al Saunders
Constance Whitman
Gerald Feldmann

Welcome New MVEC Employees!

MVEC recently had new employees join our co-op family.

We welcome Al Reiter, Energy Advisor who will assist members with questions or concerns as well as provide guidance on energy saving measures and incentive programs.

We also welcome:
Abby Fischer, Senior Accountant
Taylor Stair, Apprentice Lineman
Steven Clemmons, Network Support CSR



Al Reiter,
Energy Advisor



Abby Fischer,
Senior Accountant



Taylor Stair,
Apprentice Lineman



Steven Clemmons,
Network Support CSR

Watts The Answer?

1. Participating in MVEC's Annual Meeting provides _____ an opportunity to network with fellow members, MVEC staff, employees and Directors.
2. MVEC members should continue to monitor _____ on MVEC's social media feeds.
3. Along with high-speed internet service, members can also enjoy unlimited long distance _____ service from MVEC.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to efletcher@mvec.coop

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

Please complete the following:
Name _____

Address _____

May winners:
Susan Schulz, Dubuque
Thomas Roling, Durango



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit 174

Happy 4th of July

MVEC will be closed
Monday, July 4th in
observance of
Independence Day



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
MVEC will observe summer hours
May 2nd-September 30th, 2022
Monday-Thursday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: Energy Information Administration and Dept. of Energy



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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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

Summer Office Hours (May 2-September 30, 2022)
Monday-Thursday • 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday • 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

After Hours Call Center: 800-582-8998
www.mvec.coop  

Email direct to the following departments:

Electric Billing: billing@mvec.coop

Electric Service: maintenance@mvec.coop

Internet/Phone Service: fiber@mvec.coop

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