

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS
Current

For Our Customers • September 2004

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be held at the Palace Ballroom, 27317 Olde Farley Road, Farley, Iowa at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 9, 2004, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers and committees
2. The election of three directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each
 The terms of the following directors expire upon the date of this Annual Meeting:
 Richard D. Bishop Delaware and Buchanan Counties
 Alan R. Manternach Dubuque and Clayton Counties
 D. Burton Romer Jackson and Clinton Counties
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or adjournment or adjournments thereof

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.

Three-Year Term (Three to be elected)

- Delaware County and portions of Buchanan County – Richard D. Bishop
- Dubuque County and portions of Clayton County – Alan R. Manternach, Ron Thielen
- Jackson County and portions of Clinton County – Tom Stewart

A summary of the Cooperative Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws pertaining to membership, annual meetings, Board representation and election procedures for election of directors is on page 3 of this newsletter for your review.

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 the 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 27th day of August, 2004.

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Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Our Energy Working For

ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

Palace Ballroom, Farley

Registration	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Music by The Dover Show	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch served by the Palace Ballroom	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	1:00 p.m.

- Door Prizes
- Drawing for Electric Grills and Cash Prizes
- Cast your ballot in the Board of Directors election
- Hear the winning essays by the 2004 Youth Tour Contest Winners, Grace Brehm and Jessica Heacock
- Visit the display area:
 - ~Dubuque County Conservation Board and Swiss Valley Nature Preserve
 - ~Steve Kerper's Country Ridge Decoys (handcarved decoys and baseball bats)
 - ~Trappistine Nuns of our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey
 - ~Iowa Soybean Association
 - ~Free Blood Pressure Checks by the Visiting Nurse Association, Dubuque



Note new location for this year's annual meeting.
 Directions: US Hwy 20 to Exit 300. Turn south to frontage road and go west one-half mile on Olde Farley Road.

Request For Absentee Ballot
Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative Election for Directors

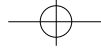
Please send absentee ballot to:

Name _____

Address _____

Account Number _____

Absentee Ballot may be requested no earlier than 10 days before meeting date.
 Completed ballot must be received at the office at 109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, IA 52205 by September 8, 2004.



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SUMMARY OF ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

Membership

Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation provides that “any individual, firm, association, corporation, partnership or other organization or any individual acting as an accredited representative of any firm, association, corporation, partnership or other organization may become a member in this Association by applying for a membership certificate***agreeing to purchase from the Association the amount of electric energy***and agreeing to comply with and be bound by these Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the Association, and such rules and regulations***. Husband and wife may jointly become a member***. (If two individuals hold a joint membership together they shall be jointly entitled to one (1) vote***.)”

Annual Meeting

Bylaw 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 that “the Board of Directors shall be made up of (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

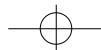
Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation indicates—“There shall be four (4) numbered geographic districts***. Two Directors representing each district and one serving at large. Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee***. Any fifty (50) or more members may make other nominations***. 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.”

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

SEVERE STORM DAMAGE

The strong thunderstorms that hit eastern Iowa August 3 created extended power outages for a large number of members throughout northern Jones County and Jackson County. High winds brought numerous lines down as poles snapped and trees toppled. The number of consumer outage hours during that one night were greater than the whole month of July. Many customers were out of power for more than 12 hours as linemen diligently worked through the night. We appreciated the patience and understanding of all the affected members as we dealt with Mother Nature's wrath.

This power outage allowed us to see the value in the outage management software we have installed. With all the outages projected on the wall it quickly showed us which areas had the most members off line and where to concentrate linemen in a faster, more efficient manner.





SWISS FORESIGHT CREATES OUR NATURE HERITAGE

Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa

You have to thank the early Swiss immigrants when you're taking advantage of going back to nature at the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. The preserve is one of the attractions offered by the Dubuque County Conservation Board. It's located off Highway 151 between Cascade and Dubuque, reached by turning north onto Old Military Road and then turning left for about 3 miles until you reach 13768 Swiss Valley Road.

The early Swiss immigrants, when arriving here in 1830, aptly named the area "Swiss Valley" because it reminded them of their Alpine homeland. Treating the area with respect, the trees were not removed from land which they would not be utilizing for their livelihood. The first grist mill in Iowa was built in 1834 on Catfish Creek. According to historic records, the grist mill was so popular that flour from St. Louis was driven off the markets. Only the foundation remains today. The dike gave way during a storm sending a great wall of water downstream toward Rockdale. The dike and mill pond area was located in Catfish Creek, directly below where the Nature Center is now located.

The first military road in Iowa was built in March of 1839, along what

is now old 151, which assisted in development of the area. The unique land ethic of the Swiss farmers of preserving the forested areas has resulted in a stand of nearly virgin forest which is now the home of the 476 acres of the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. Thus, nature enthusiasts have the early Swiss settler to thank for a unique foray into nature. There are about 10 miles of hiking trails, each named and labeled as you traverse the area.

When you arrive at the Preserve, a map is available describing the 8 trails with names such as Woodland Ecology, Mature Forest, Bluebird, Yellowbud and Prairie Trail. These trails are the result of the work accomplished after the Conservation Board acquired the land in 1973. Visitors are certain to be impressed by the exceptional scenic, awe-inspiring beauty of the area. It's kinda like a forest-covered Grand Canyon.

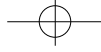
At the present time, the Preserve building is being renovated and enlarged. The old part of the building was a dairy barn, originally on the property. Offices are located here, as well as the original

nature center. Two years ago, in September 2002, using REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funds the project began. REAP is funded in part by the Iowa legislature to improve the city, county and state parks, fish and wildlife, soil and water conservation, historic resources, roadside vegetation management and environmental education. Thus when you visit the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve, it's a great display of your money at work.

Already the new unfinished rooms are being used for teacher groups, summer classes and meeting places. Scout groups, clubs and visitors abound to see the exhibits. Many descendants of the original settlers come. There is a cemetery of long ago settlers at the nearby Swiss Valley Park. Here campers are welcomed to the area.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is taking an active part





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September, the Preserve will have a booth exhibiting conceptual drawings and will answer questions about the Preserve and other opportunities available through the numerous parks the County Conservation Board operates.

in the preserve. The REC is funding an energy display on the second floor, which at first glance looks like a playhouse. It contains interactive displays where visitors can see energy efficient home construction ideas including insulation, lighting, geothermal, windows and landscaping. Equipped with a computer to walk you through details of energy efficient options, this home will be a valuable learning tool for all. The Cooperative also assisted Swiss Valley with their geothermal installation.

The Swiss Valley Nature Preserve is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. The visitor center hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends. It's managed as both a plant and wildlife preserve so there is no trapping, hunting, picking or removing of plants, nuts or berries. But, trout fishing is allowed. The DNR stocks Catfish Creek. Call 563-556-6745 for guided hikes and information on special programs, or visit their Website at www.dubuquecounty.com.

"Little Switzerland", a perfect nature excursion anytime.

Editor's Note: An open house is scheduled at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve this fall. Call the Dubuque County Conservation Board at 563-556-6745 for date and time.

It's taken lots of cooperation. Brian Preston, Naturalist, has worked diligently to achieve the final outcome. An Iowa Museum Curator, calling himself a Muselologist, has been contracted to arrange displays. "Jazz them up" is the terminology used. Robert Walton, the Executive Director, has spent long hours, along with the Dubuque County Conservation Board to accomplish their goal. Carol Froerind, Secretary, serves in many capacities and greets those arriving at the center. At the Cooperative's Annual Meeting in

WATTS THE ANSWER?

How many director positions are up for election at the annual meeting?

Is the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve open year round?

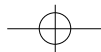
What kind of business recently opened in Maquoketa?

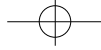
Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to pmanuel@mvec.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____





Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

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MVEC WELCOMES CHEM-RIGHT LABORATORIES, INC. TO MAQUOKETA

Members David and Susan Gossman, Zwingle, announce the opening of their new business, Chem-Right Laboratories, Inc. at 117 N. Main, Maquoketa. An Open House will be held on September 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative members and guests are invited to stop by to see their facilities and learn about the many services now available throughout the Tri-State area.

Chem-Right Labs is an analytical testing laboratory with skilled chemists on staff for the purpose of offering soil/manure and plant testing as well as wear metals testing of oil and fuel samples. Radon testing should be available by late fall with certified water testing analysis services by year-end. You can reach Chem-Right Laboratories, Inc. at 563-652-4226.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative assisted the Gossman's with the purchase of their building through our Community/Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The RLF is a local funding source with a goal of providing low interest loans to assist with local economic and community development projects. Our priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the local economy, improving the skills of the rural workforce and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety and/or medical care of rural residents. For more information on the revolving loan fund, please call MVEC's Director of Member Support, Patty Manuel, at 800-927-6068.

Photo Caption here.



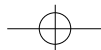
ALTERNATE ENERGY PURCHASE PROGRAM

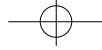
Would you like to promote alternate energy without investing in your own windmill or biomass project? Now you can purchase 50 kWh blocks of alternate energy from your Cooperative by simply notifying the billing department. An additional fee of \$1.00 for each 50 kWh block will be added to your monthly energy bill.

This program does not guarantee renewable energy will be delivered directly to your premise, however it does assure the amount of renewable energy you purchase will be purchased by the Cooperative first from approved generators on the Cooperative's electrical system and then from the Cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO, for delivery into the electrical system.



To enroll in the Alternate Energy Purchase Program, please call the billing department at 800-927-6068 or email billing@mvec.com.





MEET THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The nominating committee has announced the candidates for the 2004 election to the Board of Directors to be held at the Annual Meeting on September 9, 2004.

Delaware County and portions of Buchanan County

Richard D. (Dick) Bishop

- 1720 240th Street, Manchester
- Wife, Marlene
- Farms 950 acres four miles south of Manchester with son Doug and his wife Denise
- Raises corn, soybeans, hay, oats, hogs and cattle
- Member of First Lutheran Church, Manchester
- Delaware County Farm Bureau Board Member
- Board Member of the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives
- Past board member of Delaware County Pork Producers, Three Rivers FS and Good Neighbor Home in Manchester
- MVEC member since 1970
- MVEC board member since 1995

Dubuque County and portions of Clayton County

Alan R. Manternach

- 1774 Route 136, Cascade
- Married to Sharon; 3 children; 6 grandchildren
- Owner/Operator of hog farm since 1975
- Dubuque County Supervisor 1987 to 2001
- American Legion Member
- Western Dubuque School Board Director
- MVEC member since 1973

Ron Thielen

- 946 St. Catherine Road, Bellevue
- Married to Lori; 2 children
- Northeast Iowa Community College graduate
- National Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training
- Journeyman Electrician since 1988
- Employee of Westphal & Company, Inc. since 1984; currently serving as General Manager
- Member of the Board of Education, Archdiocese of Dubuque
- St. Donatus Community Club Member, currently serving as Youth Coach
- Member and Council Member, St. Donatus/St.

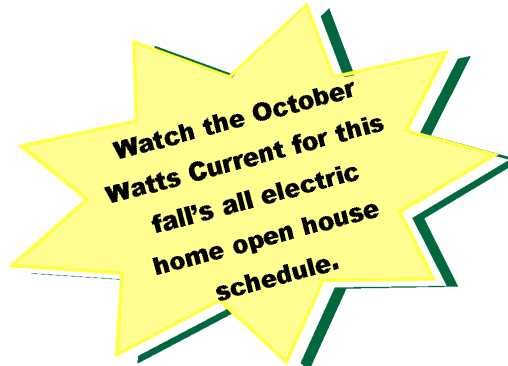
Catherine Parish

- Chairperson, Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee
- MVEC member since 1988

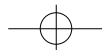
Jackson County and portions of Clinton County

Tom Stewart

- 2200 325th Avenue, Preston
- Married to Linda, 1 son
- Operates a beef, cow-calf operation; Raises corn, soybeans, hay and oats on 1,040 acres
- Jackson County Zoning Board member
- Serves on the Friends of Jackson County Conservation Board
- First United Methodist Church Member, Chair of the Youth Board and Administrative Board member
- Jackson County Farm Bureau Member
- Past President of the Jackson County Cattlemen Association
- Past Chairman of the Jackson County Extension Board
- Operates 5th generation family farm connected in 1938
- MVEC member since 1982



Make plans to visit Jerry and Trish Driscoll's home in Bernard and Kevin and Diane Carpenter's home in Earlville.





**MVEC Offices will be closed on
Monday, September 6,
in observance of
Labor Day.**

Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



Maquoketa Valley
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Anamosa, Iowa 52205-0370

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OFFICE HOURS
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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop
e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center
800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person
in your area to report outages or trouble on the
line.

- Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....319-462-4848
- Cascade, Pete Boffeli563-852-3180
- Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....563-582-3668
- Farley, Jim Lehman.....563-744-3005
- LaMotte, Vernon Konrardy.....563-773-2309
- Manchester, Dan Petersen.....563-927-6491
- Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....563-652-5014

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