



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

Paulsen to Retire in April



McDonough Power Cooperative would like to congratulate Ron Paulsen on his upcoming retirement. Ron started working for McDonough Power in September of 1974. He has witnessed many changes over the past 41 years.

Ron began his career at McDonough Power as a Groundman after completing the lineman program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa. Three months in, he joined the construction crew as an Apprentice Lineman. Once he completed his apprenticeship, he became a Journeyman Lineman. Many people know Ron from his time as a Serviceman, where he spent the majority of his career with the co-op; from 1983 to 2006. In 2006, he moved into the office to do staking for a



few years before being promoted to Line Superintendent where he will finish out his career. Some of the biggest changes over the years that Ron can recall include the fact that back in the day the co-op employed many more linemen than what they do today, climbing was more prevalent than bucket truck use, and before pagers and cell phones, if you were on call, you had to be at home with a landline telephone. He says that one of the best changes has been the recent remodel and addition to the cooperative office. **4320A5A-550A**

Ron will retire mid-April. His plans for retirement include working on his honey-do list, chasing his grandkids around, yard work, and simply enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle.

We will sure miss his experience, knowledge and having him in the office every day, but we wish him well and thank him for his dedication to McDonough Power Cooperative.



1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays



DIRECTORS

- Steve Lynn, Chairman
- Jeffrey Moore, Vice Chairman
- Steve Youngquist, Secretary
- David Lueck, Treasurer
- Jerry Riggins
- Mike Cox
- Robert J. Dwyer
- Steve Hall
- Walter Lewis
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Operation Round Up Trustees Announced

For the last 78 years, McDonough Power Cooperative has been committed to improving the lives of its members. It does this chiefly by providing affordable, reliable electricity.

However, unlike other companies you may be familiar with, McDonough Power is a cooperative. That means it also follows a set of principles shared by every cooperative in the nation. One of these seven principles is “Concern for Community,” which means that while it focuses on the needs of its members, McDonough Power also strives to improve the community as a whole.

In the spirit of serving its members and their communities, McDonough Power launched a program in November 2015 called Operation Round Up. Hundreds of electric cooperatives across the nation have already successfully implemented this program. With Operation Round Up, McDonough Power now offers its members a simple and rewarding way to support worthwhile projects in its service area.

Operation Round Up rounds each member's bill to the next whole dollar. That small change is used to support charitable causes and nonprofit community services and programs throughout the McDonough Power service territory. Participation in the program is voluntary; members are automatically enrolled, but can choose to withdraw at any time.

An independent group, made up of McDonough Power members, called Trustees, have been appointed by the



Board of Directors. The voluntary trustees will review applications for the program and select how and to whom the funds will be distributed. McDonough Power is proud to introduce the nine members selected as the first Board of Trustees for Operation Round Up. **11216C1-1066B**

District 1	Linda Prox, Macomb
District 2	Ellie Zoerink, Macomb
District 3	Linetta Null, Colchester
District 4	Matt Housewright, Macomb
District 5	Wanda Carson, Macomb
District 6	Richard Filipink, Macomb
District 7	Janet Schreck, Roseville
District 8	Dan Byers, Berwick
District 9	June Friend, Galesburg

More details and applications for the Operation Round Up program can be found on our website at www.mcdonoughpower.com.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries and an ENERGY STAR charger for them which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

Member Service Portal

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Our Member Service Portal provides members with a virtual service representative – 24 hours a day...7 days a week...365 days a year! Weekends and holidays are included!

The portal is available to existing and new members. The Member Service Portal is a single point of access to a variety of options including account maintenance, bill payment, energy use monitoring, plus account and billing history.

Although we've had the portal available for several years, one of the newer features is Alerts and Reminders, found under the My Alerts tab within the portal. Alerts and Reminders can be used to help monitor your account activity. Whether receiving a text on your cell phone or having an email sent to your preferred account, you have a choice of how you would like us to inform you of changes to your account.

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	Email
Due Date Reminder	Remind me <input type="text" value="Select"/> day(s) before.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Past Due Date Reminder	Alert me when due date has passed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Account Profile Change	Alert me when the profile is updated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned Check Alert	Alert me when a check is returned or rejected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payment Confirmation	Send me a confirmation when a payment is submitted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Energy Usage Alert	Alert me when my daily energy usage reaches \$ <input type="text" value="0.00"/> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrangement Installment Due	Remind me <input type="text" value="Select"/> day(s) before the due date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We have found that the “High Energy Usage Alert” comes in handy for those who may have a second home or a hunting cabin on our lines – a place that isn’t occupied on a regular basis. With this particular alert, members can customize it to be alerted via email or text message when the daily energy usage reaches a certain dollar amount.

Another newer feature is the capability to set up your own bank or credit card draft. This allows members to schedule their own automatic payment draft – pick any day of the month to pay your bill. We do ask that members avoid scheduling payments between the 1st and the 5th of the month since that is when the bills are cycled. **8120SL27-864C**

Members not currently utilizing the Member Service Portal are encouraged to check it out – there are so many tools available at your fingertips and registering is quick and easy. Visit us online at www.mcdonoughpower.com and click on the “Online Bill Payment” button to get started.



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

The importance of member engagement

In 2012, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the premier trade association representing approximately 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states, released a report entitled, “The Electric Cooperative Purpose - A Compass for the 21st Century.” The findings of the blue ribbon task force comprised of a dozen co-op leaders from across the country were that an electric cooperative’s purpose is to, “Power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.”

McDonough Power Cooperative is a member of NRECA and firmly believes that you, our members, need to be at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities like Ameren for example, where the primary purpose is to generate profit for their stockholders. Many of those stockholders don’t live in the communities served by the

utility. While McDonough Power must of course generate enough revenue to cover our costs, profit is not our primary motive. Serving you and your neighbors is our number one priority.

As the Electric Cooperative Purpose report noted, “Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it.” But that was 78 years ago. As we look to the future, we once again need your active participation in determining the future of our co-op.

Cooperatives enjoy the support of people from all walks of life. We operate in every type of business from agriculture, housing, finance, health care, technology, small business, food and many more. Co-ops can be found in the most rural to the most urban areas.

McDonough Power Cooperative welcomes your input on what we can

do to ensure we are meeting your needs. Take part in your Cooperative by attending the Annual Meeting in August or completing surveys sent to you on behalf of the cooperative.

One thing you can absolutely count on from your locally owned electric co-op: we will never be moving to Mexico or China like you hear of so many other companies doing. We will always be local – right here and ready to serve our members. **10113B3-416A**

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop



EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE. EVEN THE ONES WHO CAN'T YET SPEAK.

As an electric co-op member, your household has a say in how the co-op is run. Which helps you care for an even bigger family – your community. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

