



[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

# The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



*Steve Lynn*  
Board Chairman

## The Trustees of Operation Roundup

The initial group of Operation Round-Up Trustees met March 1 to get acquainted with each other, select a chairperson and vice chairperson, and learn more about the program. They are excited for the opportunity to work on behalf of the membership to give back to the communities served by McDonough Power. For more details about Operation Round-Up visit us online under the Community tab at [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com). **4232C2-532B**



### Operation Roundup Trustees

Front L-R: Wanda Carson, Linetta Null, Linda Prox, and Ellie Zoerink  
Back L-R: Janet Schreck, Dan Byers, June Friend, Richard Filipink, Matt Housewright





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

309-833-2101

[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://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



## New Co-op Connections Card Offer

**Hy-Vee Gas – Macomb**  
1602 E Jackson Street  
Macomb, IL 61455  
(309) 836-3655  
*Open Daily: 5:30 a.m.  
to 11:30 p.m.*



### Co-op Connections Card

**Discount:** \$.05 off per gallon of gas; limit 20 gallons. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers; with the exception of the Fuel Saver discount. (Discount will be in addition to patrons existing Fuel Saver card discount, if applicable) Must present Co-op Connections card to the gas station clerk at time of purchase to qualify. **5326B3-260B**

The Co-op Connections Card is a benefit of being a member of McDonough Power Cooperative – your local electric cooperative. Use your card at any local business displaying the Co-op Connections window sticker and save money. For a complete list of participating businesses, log on to [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

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

**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.

# Safe Electricity Provides Essential Guidelines for Generator Safety

When severe storms and natural disasters cause power outages, it can be an inconvenience—or even a problem—to be without electricity. Purchasing a backup generator can help with preparation for such power outages and provide peace of mind. As with all things involving electricity, the incorrect use of generators can create potentially hazardous situations. Safe Electricity outlines essential considerations in purchasing the right generator and safely operate it.

“Improper use of a standby or portable generator can lead to injury or even death,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to learn and follow all safety measures to help keep yourself and others safe.”

**Decide what needs powered.** What appliances, devices, and equipment are essential? Choose a generator size that can handle the full load of the estimated power needed. Keep in mind that it takes more power to turn an appliance on—its surge power—than it does when in continuous operation.

**Select the type of generator, either stand-by or portable.** Stand-by generators are permanently wired into a house by a professional electrician. The installation should include a transfer switch that prevents feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen. These generators are fueled by natural gas or propane from existing gas lines and automatically turn on in the event of a power outage.

A portable generator is typically fueled with diesel or gasoline, which must be regularly refilled. Unlike a stand-by generator, these must be turned on and off manually, and appliances must be directly plugged into the generator with a suitably rated extension cord.

## Be aware of local ordinances.

Depending on location, there may be electrical, positioning, or noise codes that must be followed when operating or installing a backup generator. Contact a local electrical contractor or generator dealer to help choose a code-compliant generator.

Once the generator is installed and ready to go, follow these safety guidelines to ensure the safe operation of the backup generator:

- Thoroughly read and follow all manufacturer instructions to properly ground the generator before turning it on.
- Do not connect portable generators directly to a home’s electrical system. Doing so could re-energize overhead powerlines and endanger the lives of utility linemen working to restore power.
- There should be nothing plugged into a portable generator before starting it to prevent a surge from damaging the appliance.
- When running a portable generator, always use properly rated extension cords (length and load) when connecting appliances.
- Always operate portable generators in a well ventilated space to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and other harmful fumes. Never run a generator indoors.
- Generators can pose an electrical risk when operated in wet conditions. Make sure the generator stays dry during its operation, and never touch electrical equipment with wet hands.
- Exercise caution around portable generators, which have exposed engine



individual. Keep children and pets away from a running generator.

- Use care when refueling portable generators to prevent potential fires and spills. **929A6-312C**
- Properly shut down portable generators by turning off and unplugging all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Remember to perform regular maintenance before and after each use. For portable generators, inspect oil and fuel filters, oil level, spark plugs, and fuel quality. Stand-by generators require less maintenance, but should still be inspected before and after power outages.

For more information about choosing and safely operating a backup generator, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**TIP: If you’ve been running on generator due to a power outage, there are several ways to find out when power has been restored:**

- Your electric meter’s display will no longer be blank
- Neighbors, without a generator, will have lights – assuming you are fed off of the same line
- Call us and we can check – 309.837.1400



# Electric co-ops and a culture of safety

By Adam Schwartz

There is a children's book titled *Safety 1st, Safety Always*. As you can imagine, it encompasses many of the traditional safety lessons parents should teach their children. We drill youngsters about safety from an early age because we know how important it is to protect ourselves and those we care about. In the spirit of May being National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at how electric cooperatives have been stepping up to the plate when it comes to safety at the co-op.

Up until 2007, there was an alarming national trend among electric co-ops, which was the fact that the number of "lost time" accidents was increasing. Lost time is defined as anything resulting in an employee missing time at work; these accidents could range from a sprained ankle to the ultimate tragedy of a fatality.

This is why Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures the vast majority of electric co-ops nationwide, initiated a campaign called a "Culture of Safety." It was designed to create a much greater awareness about safety issues at all electric co-ops.

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together co-op CEOs and general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors and linemen to better understand how each group viewed safety. In doing so, differences in perceptions regarding safety within cooperatives were identified, allowing for much needed conversations and evaluations of how to raise awareness and improve local safety cultures. The "Speak Up, Listen Up" program is designed to empower anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to Speak Up and encourages everyone to Listen Up



to their concerns. The results have been dramatic, with more than a 30 percent decline in the number of accidents over the past nine years.

McDonough Power recently received a Certificate of Safety Achievement for the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). RESAP is a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives. The program is based on two fundamental guiding principles. The first principle is a commitment to safety at all levels of the cooperative. Leaders accept responsibility for a culture that drives safety performance. The second is that leaders and employees take ownership of the systems and processes that create a safe working environment.

As a member, you too have a role. If you see any potential dangerous situations or practices, you should report them as soon as possible to McDonough Power Cooperative.

The implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program

demonstrates a very important point. If we are intentional about our actions, we can indeed change the culture in our organizations. The same is true for our families, our teams and any groups we may belong to.

We also know that living our cooperative principles and values is equally important. We have the best business model because it puts you, the member-owner, at the center of our efforts. **9334A1-350B**

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy advisor long into the future. For more information about McDonough Power's Culture of Safety, visit [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).

---

*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](mailto:aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop)*