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The Wire

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McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

77th Annual Meeting



At McDonough Power Cooperative's 77th annual meeting Thursday, Aug. 21, members heard about their newly remodeled headquarters, updates on the replacement of a substation and how their cooperative has been supporting the community. Members also re-elected board members David Lueck of Macomb, Jeffrey N. Moore of Good Hope and Steve Youngquist of Cameron.

Chairman of the Board Steve Lynn reported on the headquarters remodeling process and how it will allow for expanded parking and easier access. The building has new energy efficient windows, better R-value insulation and upgraded utility services. All which will allow McDonough Power to serve members for many years to come.

Lynn also reported that the cooperative is in the process of replacing the Woodland substation near Western Illinois University. After sustaining severe damage due to flooding, the new substation will be located on higher ground and will be accessible during future flooding. The co-op was also involved in a substantial move of transmission and distribution lines related to the 136 bypass.

"Prairie Power, of which McDonough Power is a part owner, was instrumental in assisting with much of the work related to the bypass," said Lynn. "This serves as a reminder that many times we must work with others to complete projects that are dictated by others. Helping each other is the cooperative way."

Commitment to community is another cooperative principle and McDonough

Power participated in many local events such as 4H auctions and farm safety demonstrations. The cooperative also purchased 320 coats for their "Coats for Kids" program and distributed them to elementary school children in its service area.

President/CEO Mike Smith addressed the crowd and said, "If you only remember one thing from my talk tonight, remember that McDonough Power is a local, member-owned cooperative created for one reason and that is to serve our member/owners." **525GP6-951A**

Smith went on to report on the grassroots efforts it takes to make voices heard in Springfield and Washington. He went on to explain the importance of coal, not only in Illinois, but to the entire country. New regulations by the U.S. EPA look to limit the use of coal to the point that no new coal-fired power plants will be built and existing plants will be shut down.

"It is important to note that this is being done by regulation, NOT by our elected representatives," said Smith. "Cooperatives support fuel diversity. America needs coal, natural gas, renewable energy, nuclear power and even bio-mass to prevent becoming overly dependent on any fuel."

He encouraged everyone to contact family, friends and neighbors and ask them to let the EPA know that America needs an all-of-the-above energy strategy that will help keep us at a competitive advantage for years to come.



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



DIRECTORS

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

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 The power of human connections



Thank you, THANK YOU, we couldn't have pulled off such a successful annual meeting without your help!

- **Macomb Bomber Boosters** for grilling 700 pork chops.
- **Scotland Clever Clovers 4H Club** for serving the meal as well as cleaning up.
- **Boy Scout Troop #332** for the pledge of allegiance and flag salute.
- **Blueridge Riders** for their pre-meeting entertainment of country and bluegrass music.
- **The Crossing church** for the use of their wonderful facility.
- **Cedar Creek, Cal Williams**, for the fresh and tasty kettle corn.
- **Prairie Power, Inc., Scott Mason**, for delivery, setup and manning the energy wall.

Congratulations to our winners!

Grand Prize winners – \$200 energy bill credit

Danny Powell	Loretta Surratt	Clarence Martin
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Prize winners

Richard Weller	2 hunting vests courtesy of McFarland Cascade
Alicia McMillan	2 golf towels and golf balls courtesy of McFarland Cascade
Heaton & Heaton	\$50 energy bill credit from Croft Electrical Contractors
Barbara Stein	floating tackle box from McFarland Cascade
Harold Anderson	pliers donated by HD Power Supply Solutions
Marcus Buker	\$50 energy bill credit courtesy of Croft Electrical Contractors
Douglas Ruhl	\$30 Walmart gift card donated by Drake Scruggs
Georgia Bunt	extension light and multi-function tool from DUECO
Steve Pinney	\$50 energy bill credit courtesy of Croft Electrical Contractors
Jarad Royer	golf shirt and sling bag donated by DUECO
John Wiorek	set of spices from Brownstown
Christina Creasy	\$50 energy bill credit courtesy of Croft Electrical Contractors
Cheryl Barclay	\$25 Bass Pro gift card donated by Tallman Equipment
Marvin Heaton	portable work light from Fletcher Reinhardt
James Brechbiel	Magic Bullet
James Swanson	weather radio
Jack Wohlstadter	wireless weather station
Andy Bartlow	Shark cordless sweeper
Jerry Yocum	iHome alarm clock with USB charging
Matt Housewright	Magic Bullet
Charles Lewis	weather radio
D.L. Paschal	wireless weather station
Veta Harper	Black and Decker leaf blower
Mary Plate	Pizzazz pizza cooker

Don't get lost in the shuffle

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Six hundred pages, plus another 1,000 of supporting documents – that's the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would amend the Clean Air Act (only 465 pages) to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power plants on which we rely today.

Besides the actual rule, a lot has been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. But lost in the shuffle of these thousands of pages is *the impact on people*. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down?

These are difficult questions. But they're important questions. At McDonough Power Cooperative, we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That's why we're asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don't want you to get lost in the shuffle. We put you – our members – first. We advocate for you. We see you every month paying your bill at the office. We work with you. We know when times are tough. We often live next door.

After all, you govern us. Our board members and community leaders are one in the same. We're as local as any organization, and we like it that way.

That's why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., that the rules they write have an impact in the real world – where we live. That's why we're encouraging everyone to take 30 seconds to sign up at www.Action.coop and tell the EPA we cannot afford these regulations.

Please raise your voice. Don't get lost in the shuffle. Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive. **5313B5-956A**

Together we'll remind regulators and lawmakers that the impact new rules and laws have on people should be their first thought, *not their last*.

With more than 900 electric cooperatives in the country backing us up, our voice can be heard. We have a great and positive story to tell. We can tell the story together. And it won't even take 1,600 pages. Please take a moment to visit www.Action.coop today.

»»»» ACTION.COOP ««««



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Power of co-op membership

Ask yourself this—What does it mean to be a member of McDonough Power Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative? **7235C8-108A**

As a member of McDonough Power, you have the power, a voice and control in how your electric co-op is run; in what's best for the community; in the decisions that allow us to provide affordable electricity for your home. This October, we're celebrating National Co-op Month, and we're recognizing the most important part of our co-op – you, our members.

Membership represents a vested interest—everyone is more engaged and attentive to something they feel a responsibility for. Touchstone Energy co-ops work to engage their members in all the issues surrounding the co-op. When members are engaged and informed they become advocates for their co-ops, not just consumers.

In today's world, electric co-ops are doing more than just saving money for their members. Touchstone Energy cooperatives make being a member of an electric cooperative a truly unique experience.

Members are the reason cooperatives exist. When members embrace the idea that they have more than a passing interest in their co-op, and that they actually are the owners, with an ability to help guide it, that is the power of co-op membership.

The power of co-op membership is the cooperative difference, and our business 'bottom line' is the empowerment of you, our member-owners. McDonough Power actively engages with the communities we serve.

The best part about being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative: It's your Touchstone Energy cooperative. Power to the people, for the people, from the people.

Draft dodgers: Weather stripping your home

By Amber Bentley

There is no doubt about it; the cold weather is on its way. Not only is it important to make sure that your heating unit is working properly, but you should check your home to make sure that none of that heat is escaping.

When the weather turns colder, drafts around windows and doors are constantly letting in cool air. Most people will immediately want to raise their thermostat even higher; however, that will cause you to use more energy when you don't necessarily need to. The best solution is to weather strip your home. This is typically an easy fix that will eliminate energy waste and help you save on your monthly electric bill.

Sometimes drafts are obvious, and other times the openings are much smaller. Here are two quick ways to find out if heat is escaping from your home. For doors, look for daylight between the door and its frame, if you see even a hint of light in between the two, you need to weather strip that area. For windows, place a piece of paper between the sash and the seal then close it. If you

can remove the piece of paper from the window without ripping it, you need to weather strip that area as well.

The great thing about all of this is that weather stripping is easy! There is an assortment of materials available to you (like rubber, foam, metal, etc.) and they are all inexpensive. Once you have purchased what you need, keep the following in mind before you begin weather stripping: be sure the surface is dry and clean, measure the area more than once for best accuracy, and apply so that strips compress both sides of the window or door. **532RM2-900A**

To weather strip windows:

- Place the stripping between the frame and the sash.
- Be sure that it compresses the window when shut.
- Check to make sure that the stripping does not interfere with the moving of the window.

To weather strip doors:

- Choose the proper sweeps and thresholds for your door.
- Weather-strip the entire door jamb.
- Make sure the stripping meets tightly at both corners.
- Use a thickness that allows for a tight press between the door and the ground, but one that does not make the door difficult to shut.

Roughly half of the energy that your home uses comes from heating and cooling. So the next time you feel an uncomfortable draft in your home, do not immediately crank up the heat. Check to find out where the draft is coming from and properly weather strip the area. This will ultimately save you more energy and more money in the end.

Amber Bentley writes on energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



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.