

Eight 2012 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Mike Smith, President and CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2012 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2012 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **5132A2-1102A**

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

A new eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,250 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric

Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Smith. “McDonough Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Kelly Hamm at 309.833.2101 or memberservices@mcdonoughpower.com. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.mcdonoughpower.com.



**Our office will be closed
November 24 and 25 for
Thanksgiving.**



McDonough Power Cooperative

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7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

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Invite safety home for the holidays

It's easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of holiday entertaining — cookies to bake, decorations to hang, presents to wrap. But don't overlook safety during the rush. The winter holiday period marks peak time for home fires and preventable injuries.

The good news is that it's not difficult to make your home ready to safely host all of your favorite holiday activities.

First, take time out from your party preparations to test your smoke and

attaching them with staples or nails.

Keep young visitors safe by preparing your home before they arrive. If your home is not already "child proof," install tamper resistant receptacles or use safety covers on all unused electrical outlets.

Store breakables, candles, matches, and other potentially dangerous items in inaccessible or locked areas. Don't forget to put away small items, like buttons, coins, and jewelry, which are a choking hazard. Use safety gates at the top and bottom of



carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. Smoke alarms should also be located inside each bedroom. Be sure to share your family fire escape plan with any overnight guests.

525HH115-951B

Arrange your holiday decorations to avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many lights, cords, or appliances. Inspect all decorations, cords, and outlets for damage before use. Keep electrical cords out of doorways and high traffic areas where they pose a tripping hazard. Do not damage cords by pinching them or

stairways to keep babies and toddlers safe.

Safety doesn't stop when the party starts. Keep decorations, gifts, and other combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources or open flame. Never leave the kitchen when something is cooking. Make sure children are supervised at all times in the kitchen and anywhere space heaters, candles, or fireplaces are being used. Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or turning in for the night.

Remember that a safe and happy holiday remains the best gift you can give friends and family.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Q & A with Billing Clerk, Michele Lovell

Q: The amount of my bill varies from month-to-month and I'm on a tight budget. What options do I have that might benefit me?



Michele Lovell

A: You have a couple of options. McDonough Power offers both Budget Billing as well as Levelized Billing. These billing options provide predictable billing throughout a set period of time.

Budget billing is not new to the cooperative. It is calculated based on your previous 12-month average bill. The amount billed each month will remain the same except for the review month. In June the balance may be greater or smaller than the budget bill amount, depending on the current year's usage compared to the previous year. Because a 12-month average is used to calculate the bill amount, it is required that you have been at the location for 12 months prior to setting up budget billing.

Levelized billing is a new option being offered by the cooperative to our members. Levelized billing also uses a

12-month average to calculate each month's bill. However, unlike the budget bill, the 12 months used in the average moves forward each month. By using a rolling average, the amount is not exactly the same each month, but usually varies very little from the yearly average. While levelized billing amounts change some each month, the variation from month-to-month is much less than regular billing. The advantage is that you are able to budget for about the same amount each month, but never have a settle-up month until electric service or the levelized program is discontinued.


For further details contact our office. **8119C2-830A**

Q: On my bill there is a line item titled PPAC, what exactly is that?

A: The Purchased Power Adjustment Charge (PPAC) is a mechanism used to make up any difference (increased or decreased)

in the cost of power over the base rate established in our existing rate. The PPAC is a pass through only. It is used to cover the fluctuation in power cost on a monthly basis. The PPAC collected is only used to pay increased power cost over the original base cost of power established in our cost of service study. No money collected through the PPAC charge is used for anything other than paying for the increases in power cost, meaning the Cooperative does not use any of this additional revenue for normal Cooperative operating expenses. That is why it is referred to as a pass thru. Without the PPAC mechanism in place it would be impossible for the Cooperative to maintain its financial integrity. Whenever the cost of power increased, it would take away from the operating portion of the rate which would only create more expenses down the road. The other option would be having rate increases every year and that is not the answer. Remember the Cooperative is YOUR Cooperative. We are a not for profit Cooperative created to serve the members who own it.

1210 W. Jackson St., P.O. Box 352 • Macomb, IL 61455
 To report an outage call (308) 833-1400 • Visit us online at www.mcdonoughpower.com
 Office Hours 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. • Monday through Friday
 Main Phone (308) 833-2101



ACCOUNT NUMBER		ACCOUNT NAME		SERVICE ADDRESS			BILL DATE
							04/04/11
SERVICE DATE		MULT	BILL TYPE	READING		KWH USAGE	CHARGES
FROM	TO			PREVIOUS	PRESENT		
03/01/11	04/01/11	1	0	36247	37733	1486	131.33
FACILITY CHARGE							26.50
0.001120	PPAC					1486	1.66
STATE UTILITY TAX							4.76
TOTAL CURRENT BILL DUE, 04/20/11							164.25
PREVIOUS AMOUNT DUE							230.31
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT 03/15/11							-230.31
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE							164.25



We want to put YOU in the Spotlight!

Wre more than your electric company; we're your neighbors and we'd like to get better acquainted with you. If you own a business or are an individual with a special hobby, a unique story or if you simply remember when

the lights came on, we would like to know more about you. It's possible that we might just feature you right here in our center section. For a business there is no better way to reach out to potential customers for FREE. So, show us what

you've got – simply cut out, complete and return the information below. We look forward to meeting you! **526D7-951C**

Name: _____

Business: Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, what service(s) do you provide: _____

Hobby or Unique story: (explain briefly – we will contact you for full details)

What is the best way to contact you?

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Return to:

McDonough Power Cooperative
1210 W. Jackson St., P.O. Box 352
Macomb, IL 61455

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.



Tip of the Month

Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy