

## Why I'm thankful for my co-op



Mike Smith  
President and CEO

At my family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we're grateful for. My list is usually about the same—good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people of west central Illinois.

I'm thankful to be a part of McDonough Power Cooperative.

Our employees are some of the hardest workers I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously. **6311C5-708C**

I'm thankful for McDonough Power because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling



the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family.

I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy—partly because we are local. That means McDonough Power is invested in the future of its communities.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. From giving warm, winter coats to young people and coordinating food

drives to reaching out to members with information that will help them save energy and money, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no McDonough Power Cooperative.

*Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op.*



**Our office  
will be closed  
Thursday,  
November 28  
and Friday,  
November 29  
for the  
Thanksgiving  
holiday**



# McDonough Power Cooperative

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61455-0352

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

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



## DIRECTORS

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

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



## Tip of the Month

If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. **10115C9-402A** Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

## 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.

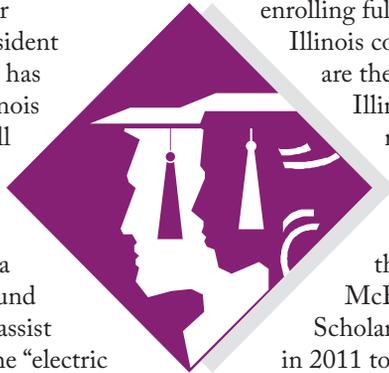


# Eight 2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

McDonough Power Cooperative President and CEO, Mike Smith has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2014 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 \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2014 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

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 or director. 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.

The eighth annual \$1500 scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was created in 2011 to 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 (LLCC), Springfield, IL. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric 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; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals participating in the LLCC lineworker’s

program 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 Mike Smith, McDonough Power President and CEO. “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.” **5312C9-260A**

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Kelly Hamm at 309.833.2101. All necessary details have been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative’s website at [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).



## HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES

Holiday shopping season is upon us. Do you know someone who is hard to buy for and a member of McDonough Power Cooperative? Why not give them the gift of electricity, with a gift certificate they can apply to their power bill. Gift certificates are available in any amount. Stop in or call for details.



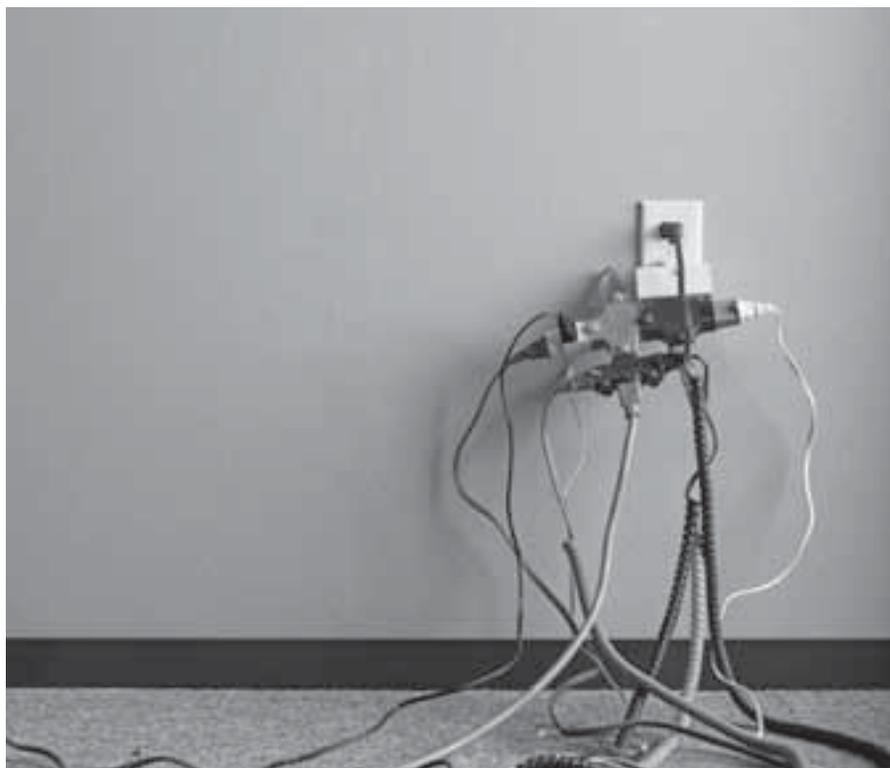


# Protect electronics, prevent hazards

**B**ig-ticket electronics, such as televisions, computers, and gaming consoles, are at the top of many holiday wish lists—but safety may not be. Purchasing, installing, and operating these items safely protects not only the expensive equipment, but also your entire home. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips, and for more information, visit [holidaysafety.org](http://holidaysafety.org).

## Safety tips

- Always purchase electrical devices from a reputable retailer that you trust. Be especially wary when making online purchases.
- Check that all electrical items are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL).
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Send warranty and product registration forms for new items to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls. Recall information is also available on the website of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (<http://www.cpsc.gov>).
- Never install an exterior television or radio antenna close enough to contact power lines if it falls.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.
- All appliances and cords should be kept in good condition. Examine them regularly for damage, and repair or dispose of damaged items.
- Keep cords out of reach of children and pets.
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer workstations have enough space around them for ventilation of electronic equipment.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical devices. Spills can result in dangerous shocks or fires.
- Unplug equipment when not in use to save energy and reduce the risks



for shocks or fires. Power strips or surge protectors make a good central turn-off point. **5311C3-260A**

- Always unplug electrical items by grasping the plug firmly rather than pulling on the cord.
- If you receive any kind of shock from a large appliance or any other electrical device, stop using it until an electrician has checked it.
- If an appliance smokes or sparks, or if you feel a tingle or light shock when it's on, stop using it. Discard and replace it or have it repaired by an authorized service provider.

## Extension cords

- Extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution. They should not be used as a long-term or permanent electrical circuit.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can result in an electric shock or burn.
- Only use weather-resistant, heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use" outside.

- Keep all outdoor extension cords clear of snow and standing water.
- Arrange furniture so that there are outlets available for equipment without the use of extension cords.
- Do not place power cords or extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs, or furniture (to avoid overheating and tripping hazards), and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

## Surge protector or power strip?

Although surge protectors and power strips both allow you to plug several devices in one location, it is important for consumers to understand that they are not interchangeable. A true surge protector includes internal components that divert or suppress the extra current from surges, protecting your valuable electronics from electrical spikes, while a power strip simply provides more outlets for a circuit.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*