

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



*Mike Smith
President and CEO*

80th Annual Meeting of Members

Members of McDonough Power Cooperative gathered for the co-op's 80th Annual Meeting of Members held Tuesday, Aug. 22 at The Crossing in Macomb where they were provided updates on their cooperative and enjoyed a pork chop dinner.

During the meeting, President/CEO Mike Smith informed members about McDonough Power's most recent news. This year, the board of McDonough Power authorized the retirement of capital credits to the membership in the amount of \$397,861. McDonough Power has retired capital credits for 11 consecutive years, making a grand total of \$3,613,570.85 returned to the member-owners. **532D2B-900C**

Owners of the cooperative contribute to and democratically control the capital of the cooperative. Smith said, "The economic benefits of a cooperative, meaning the net margins the cooperative has after all the bills have been paid, are used to operate the cooperative for the life of those assets and then returned to you, the member."

Smith then went on to discuss the trend on the wholesale power side of business. "Right now, we are seeing a steady but constant slide in the number of kWh that we sell to our members," Smith said. Comparing sales now to that of 2014, there is a 15 percent decrease.

Smith suggests there could be many reasons for lower kWh sales. These include the increasing technology in energy efficiency, LED lighting, milder summers



Members of McDonough Power Cooperative re-elected three area men to the organization's board of directors. The re-elected directors from left are: Jeff Moore of Good Hope and Steve Youngquist of Cameron and David Lueck of Macomb.

and winters, the increasing interest in renewable energy, and the shutting down of the Freeman coalmine that was on McDonough Power's lines.

"Perhaps the best answer for that is no one really knows," Smith said. "What we do know is who we are. We will have voluntary and open ownership and give those members a voice in the future of the cooperative. We will continue to have our owner's economic participation in our cooperative and return those benefits back to you. We will remain independent and controlled by our owners. We will provide education to the public about cooperatives and the benefits of being a member owner."

Commitment to community is one of the seven principles that are the foundation of cooperatives. Chairman Jeff Moore discussed some ways the co-op demonstrates this principle, starting with

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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

Jeff Moore, Chairman

Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

David Lueck, Treasurer

Jerry Riggins

Mike Cox

Bob Dwyer

Steve Hall

Steve Lynn

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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Operation Round-Up.

This program began in 2015, rounding up a participant's monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. The leftover change is put into a fund and is contributed to non-profit organizations in the community including food banks, fire departments and hospitals.

"I have participated in the program since it began in November 2015," Moore said. "To date, I have contributed \$10.01, but that contribution along with thousands of others has resulted in our total number of grants to date to equal \$41,862.45." **10114D1-416A**

Additionally, Moore recognized Eric DeWitt for his work with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's international program. He and several other Illinois linemen traveled to rural Bolivia in South America to bring electric service to remote parts of the country. "This is a volunteer program filled with long days of work and short nights of rest," Moore said. "His contribution

helped to bring electric service to a remote school that never had service before."

Other ways McDonough Power gave back to the community was through Coats for Kids, youth tours to Springfield and Washington D.C., and working with students and faculty at Western Illinois University.

This year's LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineman Scholarship was awarded to Ethan Carlock of Chandlerville. The one-year \$2,000 scholarship will help to contribute to the costs of attending the line worker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

In the treasurer's report, David Lueck reported that the co-op saw \$294,055 in operating margins for the year.

An election of directors also occurred during the meeting. David Lueck of Macomb, Jeff Moore of Good Hope and Steve Youngquist of Cameron were re-elected to the co-op's board of directors.





October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Cybersecurity Tip

Create long passwords that only you will remember and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.

Are you secure?

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

By Alison Kennedy

Sony, Target, Home Depot, Yahoo and even the U.S. Office of Personnel Management have all been attacked by cybercriminals. Let's face it: In today's world, the cybersecurity threats facing our nation can seem overwhelming – and downright scary. Cybersecurity, specifically the protection and security of consumer-members' assets and the nation's complex, interconnected network of power plants, transmission lines and distribution facilities, is a top priority for electric cooperatives and other segments of the electric power industry. **525HH120-951B**

This October, McDonough Power Cooperative is participating in National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM). Since its inception under leadership from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSAM has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses,

corporations, educational institutions and young people across the nation.

By raising awareness and understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats.

You have a role to play in ensuring the security of your personal and professional data. Use the tips below to safeguard your computer:

- Keep all software on internet-connected devices – including PCs, tablets and smartphones – up to date to reduce risk of infection from malware.
- Create long passwords that only you will remember, and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.
- Avoid the use of thumb drives and other portable memory devices.

- Don't click on weblinks or attached files in emails when you're not certain of who the sender is.
- Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online. Check trusted websites for the latest information. Share security tips with friends, family and colleagues, and encourage them to be web wise. **10235A9-302A**

We hope you will join us in raising cybersecurity awareness. Use and follow #cyberaware on social media to show and share your support. To learn more about NCSAM, visit www.staysafeonline.org.

Alison Kennedy writes on business and technology strategies and cooperative affairs 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.

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crew determine it is safe.



Operation Round-Up granted \$2,000 to Blandinsville Hire Fire towards the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression device and \$1,500 to CASA of West Central Illinois for advocacy training.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Fall/Winter Energy Tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature – set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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.