

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Operation Round Up® Program – Seeking Your Vote at the Annual Meeting

People Helping People

Cooperatives were established on the basis of people helping people. Spoon River Electric Cooperative believes Operation Round Up® is a great extension of that idea, because it makes it easy for members like you to help good things happen in your community. Members have their electric bills “rounded up” to the next whole dollar, with the extra changed dedicated to charitable causes. Donations are only a few cents a month and average about \$6 a year. It’s a small change, but it delivers big benefit to local community and charitable organizations.

How it Works

It’s simple. Spoon River will “round up” your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. For example, a bill amount of \$65.48 would be rounded up by 52 cents for a total due of \$66. The additional 52 cents would be your Operation Round Up® donation for that month.

Pending a voice vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting in June; starting in August, your bill will be automatically rounded up. We realize that not everyone is willing to participate in the program and you are able to opt out of this voluntary program at any time by contacting Spoon River.

How Donations Are Collected

Because donations are automatically collected through your monthly electric bill, it’s easy to contribute on a regular basis. Should you want to contribute more than the “rounded up” amount during the year, you can make an additional contribution by writing a separate check made out to the Spoon River Electric Foundation and mailing it to Spoon River.

Volunteer Committee

The small change you contribute to Operation Round Up® is deposited in the Spoon River Electric Foundation account. An independent, volunteer committee consisting of Spoon River members will review application and determine who receives funding.

Distribution of Funds

Through the generosity of Spoon River Electric Cooperative members, Operation Round Up® will provide funding to school programs, philanthropic groups, non-profit organizations, rescue squads, volunteer fire departments and other deserving causes that benefit members within Spoon River’s service territory.

Please let us know if you have any questions about Operation Round Up®. We will be asking members to vote on this program at the Annual Meeting of Members in June.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

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Editor of Spoon River News

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tmellert@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,271
Number of members served: 4,808
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,255



2017 Farmer's Market to open Saturday, May 27

Canton Main Street's Farmer's Market, in collaboration with Spoon River College, will be back in Jones Park in downtown Canton this summer. The market will begin May 27, and take place each Saturday through September 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Local growers will sell fruits, vegetables, baked goods, fresh flowers, jams, honey, herbs and other locally grown items. This will be the sixth Farmer's Market sponsored in Jones Park by Canton Main Street, which has included producers selling fresh-from-the-farm sweet corn, melons, potatoes, green beans, squash varieties, fresh herbs, local honey, beets, carrots, lettuces mixes and more. Most of the vendors who set up for the 2016 market will be back with a wide variety of food items for sale, as well as several newcomers.

Carol Kohler, Promotions Chair for Canton Main Street, is excited about the growing popularity of the weekly event. Live musical entertainment is planned, as well as food demonstrations and other attractions. "We are so pleased at the Market's success," Kohler noted. "This such a great addition to the community, and has become a popular social event for a large number of customers. They come down for the fresh food, but also to sip some coffee, visit with friends and listen to music." Kohler says they are actively looking for more growers to set up for the markets.

For more information, or to receive a vendor application, please contact Dana Smith at dsmith@cantonil-linois.com, or call her at (309) 647-2677, Extension 1.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: Energy.gov

Fifth Art on Main Fine Arts Festival planned for June 3-4 in Canton

Canton Main Street will host the fifth annual Art on Main Fine Arts Festival on June 3-4, 2017 in Jones Park in downtown Canton. The event has grown from 21 exhibitors in 2013 to over 30 expected in the park this year, with as many as 3,000 visitors expected over the two-day festival. Local musicians and food vendors will also contribute to making the festival a colorful, vibrant experience. Big Horse Vineyards will be making their debut at the Festival, hosting a wine garden during the event, with wine for sale by the glass or bottle, as well as a selection of craft beers. Local organizations and caterers will provide a variety of food choices. The event will be open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free and the Festival is open to the public.

Cheryl Bielema is the 2017 chair of the Art on Main committee, which is made up of over fifteen volunteers, including artists, art patrons, and those who just have a love of the arts in all forms. "Each year we have returning artists who love the show and have developed a loyal following for their work," Bielema says, "But, we also have new artists every year, who bring their fresh ideas and interpretations of art to the festival. We think this festival is growing into a truly regional event."

Fundraising over the past five years has allowed the festival to



expand and grow, and Bielema says the backing for the event has been outstanding. "We cannot say enough about the support the Festival has received. We have received cash donations, in-kind donations and items for our silent auction from businesses, individuals, and the artists themselves. They all really want this event to be an ongoing part of our community." The Festival also receives support from the City of Canton, and local and regional art councils.

Categories that will be represented at the festival include

painting/drawing, jewelry, glass, photography, clay/ceramics, textiles, sculpture, mixed media and wood. The Art on Main Fine Arts Festival is a juried show, and the Art on Main committee, which is made up of artists, art patrons, designers and other volunteers, review work submitted for consideration

For more information on the Art on Main Fine Arts Festival, to volunteer, or to become a sponsor, please contact Dana Smith at (309) 647-2677 or dsmith@cantonillinois.org



ATTENTION 2016-2017 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2016-2017 school year, and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting on June 15, 2017.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 31, 2017** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting June 15, 2017, to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2016-2017 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2017-2018 school year. -Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.



Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone Number _____

Return To: Taryn Mellert
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
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Canton, IL 61520
647-2700