

## President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

## Growing up co-op

By Meghaan Evans

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally-owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Spoon River Electric.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest Investor-owned utilities (or IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

You see, Spoon River Electric is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return

it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs such as the Spoon River Solar Farm Learning Center and our new program, Operation Round Up.

I hope that you view Spoon River Electric not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning

more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the co-op or give us a call. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too!

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## 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](http://www.srecoop.org)

### *President/CEO*

William R. Dodds  
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### *Chairman*

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Terry Beam, Cuba

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### *Editor of Spoon River News*

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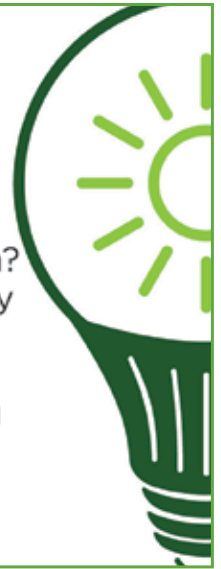
## Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272  
Number of members served: 5,022  
Number of power poles  
in territory: 29,361

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving!*



**Spoon River Electric's office will be closed on  
Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24  
for the Thanksgiving Holiday**



# Spoon River Electric attends Big Wheels Family Night

This fall, Mrs. Havens' Canton Little Learners class held Big Wheels Family Night at Westview School in Canton. Spoon River Electric Cooperative was very pleased to attend. Line Foreman Bill Sego set up the big digger truck to show and talk to the Little Learners a little bit more about line work. He also handed out lineman coloring books and hard hats to all the Little Learners.





## Ten 2018 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Spoon River Electric CEO Bill Dodds has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2018 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2018 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five 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 sixth 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. Three additional 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 tenth annual scholarship, the “La Vern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” is a \$2,000 scholarship that 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. 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 to apply for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with

these scholarships,” says Dodds. “Spoon River Electric 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 Taryn Mellert at the Spoon River Electric office in Canton or at 309-647-2700. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org).