



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455

### Important notice to the consumers of McDonough Power Cooperative - change in collection policy

**E**ffective January 1, 2003, McDonough Power Cooperative will no longer make a separate collection trip the day prior to the collection and disconnect trip. For years, McDonough Power has made a trip to consumers' homes or businesses to make an attempt to collect on late payments and then followed-up the next day with a collect or disconnect trip. As costs continue to increase, it makes sense to avoid the additional collection costs by sending a representative out to make a call. Especially when, in most cases, it is difficult to find anyone at home. If it becomes necessary to send a representative to the consumer's residence or business to collect, a collection trip charge is made to the consumer to offset the cost.

Your energy bill contains important information including the energy used period, number of kilowatt hours used, amount owed, and date in which the payment becomes delinquent.

The billing staff at McDonough Power will continue to make phone calls regarding notification of late payment consumer accounts and assisting consumers with details of the account balances and arrangements for payment. Phone calls are much more efficient collection practices for the consumer and fairly successful in reminding consumers of the payment deadline.

On behalf of McDonough Power Cooperative, I would like to say "thank you" to the many consumers who month after month, pay their bill on time. The fact that the vast majority of consumers pay their bill on time allows your cooperative to maintain one of the lowest percentages of bad debt write-offs at the end of the year.

**DIRECTORS**  
 Jerry Riggins, Chairman  
 Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
 Mark Anderson, Secretary  
 Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
 Steve Youngquist  
 Howard Butler  
 Jeffrey Moore  
 Bill Pollock  
 Stan Prox  
 John D. McMillan, Attorney

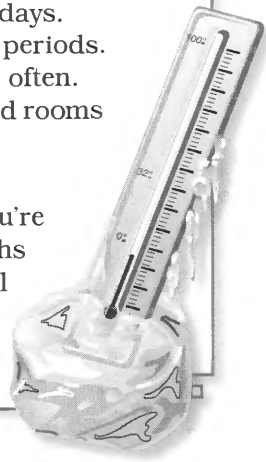
**All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400**

### Baby, it's cold outside!

Is your electric bill higher during winter months? If so, here are a few reasons why:

- There's more cooking and baking around the holidays.
- Lighting is used more because of shorter daylight periods.
- Electric blankets and heating pads are used more often.
- Clothes dryers run more often and those in unheated rooms use more energy.
- Space heaters are in frequent use.

There are other easily overlooked reasons why you're using more electricity during the bone-chilling months of winter. Contact us for additional information. We'll try to help you use energy efficiently and wisely while you try to stay cozy and warm.



# Maximize your home's efficiency and safety while preparing for winter

**B**risk fall temperatures signal its time to get your home ready to keep out the winter chill. Energy dollars can pour out of homes through drafty doors and windows, and un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements while safety risks go unnoticed. Take this opportunity to improve your home's efficiency and safety at the same time.

"Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings," said Paul Benson, Executive Director of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC). "Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs."

"You can eliminate electrical fire and shock risks as you winterize your home," said Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. "For example, as you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch."

The IEC and its Safe Electricity program offer information year round to help consumers use electric energy efficiently and safely. Use these tips to help cut costs and improve home safety:

- Find air leaks both inside and around the exterior of the home. Just wet your fingertips and run them around the door or window frame to feel a draft – or hold a tissue and see if it waves.
- Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- Seal leaks between moving parts (ex: between door and its frame) with weather stripping. Fill leaks between nonmoving parts (ex: between window frame and wall) with caulking.
- Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you can't replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- If you're shopping for new windows, glass doors or skylights, look for the ENERGY STAR. Today's high-efficiency windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard windows and can cut heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.
- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.

- Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its highest efficiency. Consider replacing your furnace if it's more than 30 years old – furnaces that are old are usually less than 50 percent energy efficient.
- Install an automatic thermostat. An easy-to-install clock thermostat can automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night.

"Don't overlook simple steps, like making sure furnace filters are changed monthly, more often if you have pets indoors," said Benson. "Furnaces run longer and work harder to move air through dirty filters. A clean furnace filter can mean double digit savings on the heat bill."

While you winterize, use this electrical safety checklist:

- Check outlets and extension cords to make sure they aren't overloaded.
- Examine electrical cords to make sure they aren't frayed, damaged or placed under rugs or carpets.
- Make sure that the proper wattage light bulbs are being used in light fixtures. Screw bulbs in securely. Loose bulbs may overheat and burn shades, drapes or nearby furniture.
- Look for these signs of electrical problems: switch plates, outlet covers, cords and plugs that are warm to the touch; and cut, broken or cracked insulation on electric wiring; frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers. If these signs are present, you need a safety inspection by a licensed professional.
- Replace worn and outdated circuitry and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics. Hire a licensed professional to do the work.
- Make sure outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and outdoors have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Test them and reset them monthly. If these outlets don't have GFCIs, have them professionally installed.
- Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old.

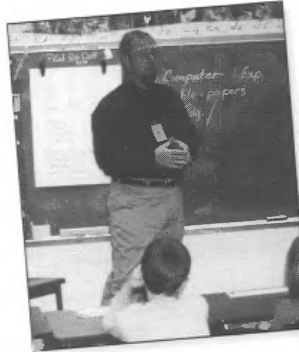
"These steps help reduce the risk of fire, shock, injury or death," Hall said. "We encourage everyone, including children, to visit our Web site [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) to learn more about electrical safety."

The Illinois Electric Council and Illinois not-for-profit industry forum established in 1952, provides a framework through which

the University of Illinois, investor-owned electric utilities, electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities and other develop cooperative education programs and research activities designed to promote efficient and safe use of electric energy by consumers.

Safe Electricity, a statewide electrical safety public awareness program, is a collaborative effort by a coalition of more than three dozen organizations, including the University of Illinois, electric companies and electric cooperatives from across the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council.

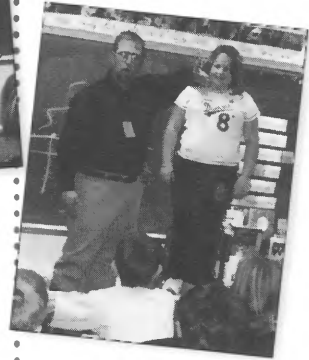
**A**s part of McDonough Power's community service, Engineer Pete Lucas spoke to Mrs. Kreps' second grade class at Lincoln School in Macomb. He discussed electricity safety, which included watching out for power lines when flying kites or climbing trees, the correct way to jump from a vehicle if necessary, and outlet and extension cord safety. He also answered the question "why can birds sit on the lines and not get electrocuted?"



*Pete Lucas discusses electricity safety.*

*Pete has Morgan Beck (daughter of Dawn Beck, Administrative Assistant at McDonough Power) demonstrate the proper way to jump from a vehicle.*

## Community service



**T**he board of directors and management team have been studying viable options to resolve voltage problems in the southwest area of the service territory. Several months ago, McDonough Power built a new three-phase commercial service to provide Central Stone with electric power to a large 3-phase motor capable of crushing large rocks. Since then, the voltage in the area has been affected due to the high-speed jaw crushing action, and the staff has been testing and making changes to eliminate the voltage problems. Management and engineering are moving quickly to arrive at the best option for Central Stone, as well as the consumers affected along the line.

Thank you for your patience as we test various options and work towards making changes that will enhance service for consumers living west of the Industry (#5) substation.

**W**arning signs: uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

Detection: Take the person's temperature. If below 95 degrees F (35 degrees C), immediately seek medical care!

If medical care is not available, begin to warm the person slowly. Warm the body core first. If needed, use your own body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap them in a warm blanket covering head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee or any hot beverage or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first. This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

## McDonough Power studies options at Central Stone Rock Quarry

## Hypothermia - low body temperature



### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street • P.O. Box 352 • Macomb, Illinois 61455-0352  
(309) 833-2101 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
E-mail address: mcdonpr@macomb.com

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By staying connected with your family and  
friends, and save money with  
Power Net Global**



**4.9¢**

**ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS**

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**ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE**

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do not need to be a McDonough Power member*

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**FREE to join**

**FREE calling cards**

(13.9 cents per min. anytime –  
no surcharge)

**FREE 800 number**

Same rate as standard calls

**6 second increment billing**

**NO monthly fees**

**NO monthly premiums**

**NO term agreements**

**NO codes to dial**

**NO fly-by-night**

**operation – respected  
carrier**

*For additional information, call: (1-800) 381-2101  
Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative  
PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound \_\_\_\_\_ 800Travel Cards - Number of cards needed \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.*

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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Macomb, Illinois 61455

## Geothermal update



**M**cDonough Power Cooperative has approximately 60 super-efficient geothermal heating and cooling systems installed on co-op lines.

“McDonough Power encourages geothermal heating and cooling for both new homes and retrofits, because it’s absolutely the most efficient system available today,” says Lynn Cavett, McDonough’s Member Service Representative. “Gas furnaces have been developed to get more than 90 percent efficiency, and that’s as high as they can go. Geothermal systems deliver 3 to 4 times the heating efficiency of other units manufactured today.”

That’s because a geothermal system actually MOVES heat, instead of creating it. Using the earth’s heat stored below ground, geothermal units put more heating energy into a home than they consume in electricity.

Air conditioning is also more efficient, because the geothermal unit redirects heat from the house into the ground, which is at more moderate temperatures than the outside air.

Loops of pipe are buried underground to carry a water-antifreeze solution, which moves heat into or out of the house. The loops are made of long-life polyethylene, and may be installed horizontally in trenches or in vertical boreholes. Most loop systems have a 50-year guarantee. **7211D6-112A**

“We have only about 60 homes with a geothermal unit on our cooperative, but there are half a million satisfied geo owners across the country, with some installations going back 20 years or more,” Cavett says.

McDonough Power offers incentives such as rebates for geothermal installations and a 6-cent rate for geothermal heating and cooling, and works with area HVAC dealers to get the word out about high-efficiency geothermal and heat pump systems. Geothermal can heat a home for less than a gas furnace, and may even save half over recent high gas costs.

“The operating savings over the life of the heating system is what sells the units, but then the owners also love the comfort and convenience they get with geothermal,” Cavett says. “The even heating and cooling give year-round comfort, and there’s no outdoor compressor or open flame to deal with.”

Stan and Linda Prox of Macomb have built an 1800 square foot house northwest of Macomb. After comparing prices, they decided to install a geothermal system. They were aware that the McDonough Power office itself has had a geothermal unit for more than 10 years. The pay back was approximately 4-1/2 years. That’s why when they were sold on a 5 year payback from their dealer, it was quite believable. Stan said he talked to several people who have geothermal and

**(Continued on pg. 16b)**

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All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400

(Continued from pg. 16a)

every one was happy with their system. Linda likes the fact that it runs quiet and keeps an even temperature.

Even though he spent more for the geothermal system than a gas furnace and separate air conditioner would have cost, Stan is happy with his decision to go geo. He joins 59 other geo owners in our area, a number which is growing fast, with 16 installations completed last year and at least that many expected this year.

For more information on geothermal heating and cooling systems, and a list of experienced installers in the area, contact Lynn Cavett at McDonough Power at (309) 833-2101. **531SHA44-900A**

## 2003 "Youth to Washington" Tour



**T**he Board of Directors recently announced that McDonough Power Cooperative would be sponsoring the Youth to Springfield and Youth to Washington, D.C.

programs this spring. McDonough Power, as well as McDonough Telephone Cooperative, are sponsoring this program to introduce students to government and the political process.

Two students from each high school in the respective service areas will receive an all-expense-paid bus trip to Springfield on Wednesday, April 9. During the day, the students and their counterparts from other area high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn firsthand about the workings of state government.

From the group of high school students attending Youth Day, each cooperative will choose two students to attend the Washington tour.

The trip will be one week-long and all-expenses paid. During the week in the nation's capital, the Illinois students will tour the monuments, memorials and shrines, as well as Arlington Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mt. Vernon, historic Alexandria, the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol. And that's just the beginning.

McDonough Power is very pleased to be able to participate in this program for area youth and hopes the experiences of the students will be rewarding ones.

Application request forms are being sent to local schools. If you are interested, contact your guidance counselor.

### Map location game

**T**he map location game is back! Every month, we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout the *Watts New!* If you find your map location number, call the office with the page that you found it on and receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill. Keep reading the *Watts New* and win!

**See you at the  
HOME SHOW  
Western Hall at WIU on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## We've got plans for stormy weather

The past few winters have been generally milder than normal, with no severe snow or ice storms. Will this winter go back toward the other extreme? No one knows, but sooner or later things do seem to average out, so it's a good idea to be prepared.

At McDonough Power we do our best to keep your electric service active, but we can't control Mother Nature. That's why McDonough Power has developed an outage management plan to restore your power in the event that severe weather, such as a snow or ice storm, causes an outage. The following is the step-by-step process our line crews execute to bring the system back online after major damage has been inflicted:

1. Priority repair is given to lines that restore power the quickest and to the most customers. These are called three-phase feeder lines, which extend directly out from the substations and distribute power to the entire system.
2. After the three-phase lines have been repaired, crews can begin work on single-phase lines, which extend from the three-phase feeder lines. Priority is given to the single phase lines that serve the most customers.
3. Once single-phase line damage is repaired, crews then begin working on secondary lines that extend from the single-phase lines and provide power to individual residences or businesses. In the case of a home that is set back from the road, our high-voltage line may extend into the property, but this is still considered an individual service with the third level of priority.

### Widespread damage:

Keep in mind that most service interruptions can be resolved within hours. However, during major outages, there are usually several points within the system that are damaged and it is often impossible to complete repairs within the day. Rest assured, our focus is to restore service to all of our customers as quickly as possible, and our dedicated line crew works around the clock to meet this goal.

If our operations department determines that the outage is more extensive than our crew can handle in a timely manner, more help is available from our neighboring co-ops. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives coordinates an Emergency Action Plan to provide help between co-ops for major outages.

### Be patient:


Our office and phones are manned around-the-clock during the restoration effort. During peak periods, all lines coming into the office may be busy and patience is needed. We don't ask you to talk to a machine - we want to know what and where the problem is.

Of course, we don't anticipate experiencing a major outage in the near future. However, should it occur, take heart knowing that McDonough Power is prepared with an action plan to restore your service quickly and efficiently. **419B3-1008B**

### What to do if your power goes out

1. Are all your lights and power outlets off, or just some of them? Check your fuse and breaker box to make sure that it's in working order. Check

*(Continued on pg. 16d)*



**FILL YOUR PROPANE TANK NOW**  
**CALL**  
**MPC ENERGY, INC.**

<b>BLANDINSVILLE</b>	<b>DENVER</b>
<b>(309) 652-3103 or</b>	<b>(217) 743-5215 or</b>
<b>(800) 635-2085</b>	<b>(800) 213-1402</b>

For answers to your propane problems, ask for Joel Theis, Manager of MPC Energy at Blandinsville or Jerry Ross at Denver.

(Continued from pg. 16c)

2. Check with your neighbors to see if their power is off too. If so, designate one person to call the McDonough Power outage line at (309) 837-1400.
3. Have your map location number available to give the dispatcher. This helps us locate your account faster, especially if you have more than one account with us.
4. Turn off major appliances, heating and cooling systems, and lights to avoid overloading the system when power is restored. You might also prevent damage to your equipment if voltage fluctuations occur when our lines are re-energized. Leave one light on so you'll know when the power is on again. **8428D8A-680A**

### While you wait for power to be restored

Be prepared:

- Have a flashlight with extra batteries for each member of the family. Also have candles and matches that are easily accessible.
- Keep a portable radio handy with fresh batteries close by.
- Have a manual can opener and a supply of ready-to-eat food in the pantry. Kids will think it's great they're "camping out" inside.
- Make arrangements to stay with a family member or neighbor who heats with wood or uses a generator during an extended outage.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed. The contents should be safe for at least 24 hours in the fridge and 36 hours in the freezer. In winter, food may be stored in the garage or a sealed box outside. Let Old Man Winter keep your food cold!
- Close draperies to reduce heat loss through windows. Open drapes in the daytime to use the sun to warm the room. Select one room to use. Close doors to all other rooms. Bundle up in warm clothing or blankets.
- **BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN USING KEROSENE HEATERS.** They can be deadly in a confined space that is not adequately vented.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND SAVE MONEY WITH POWER NET GLOBAL

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Open to all residents – do not need to be a McDonough Power member  
ANYTIME – 24 hours per day – 7 days a week!

- FREE to join
- FREE calling cards  
(13.9 cents per min. anytime – no surcharge)
- FREE 800 number  
Same rate as standard calls
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- NO monthly premiums
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- NO fly-by-night  
operation – respected carrier

For Additional Information, Call: 1(800) 381-2101  
Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative, P.O. Box 352, Macomb, IL 61455

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards  Number of Cards Requested \_\_\_\_\_

800 Service:  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### President's Report

by Jon K. Miles

## What is the PPAC charge on my electric bill?

I was working in the office one weekend when our contract maintenance person, who happens to be a McDonough Power member, asked me to explain what the PPAC was on her electric bill.

Probably the most frequently asked question received in the office is in regards to the PPAC. I thought it would be a good idea to discuss the PPAC and why it is added to the electric bill.

PPAC is the acronym for Purchased Power Additional Cost. The PPAC is not something new; it has been a component of the electric bill for many years and serves a necessary purpose to maintain the financial integrity of the cooperative.

The cost of power that your cooperative purchases from CCS/Soyland fluctuates from month to month depending on the cost of fuel used to generate electricity. Nearly 30 years ago, fuel prices became volatile and left utilities with little choice but to file for a rate increase to include the cost in the rate base, eventually paid by consumers. Since then, fuel prices have stabilized somewhat, but continue to vary due to market conditions.

Your cooperative's ability to automatically pass thru incremental costs results in significant savings by eliminating a costly rate study each time the cost of power increases. Rate studies can be expensive to the cooperative and, like all businesses, the costs are passed on to the consumers.

Our current rate schedules for each consumer classification include a provision to include the PPAC calculation.

I hope this explanation of the PPAC charge and its purpose is helpful to you. **6110A2-168C**

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
The power of human connections

McDonough Power Cooperative  
1210 West Jackson  
PO Box 352  
Macomb IL 61455-0352

Account # 000000000  
Amount Due \$109.87

Amount Enclosed  
Amount Due After  
Billing Date  
Present Reading 55048

READ METER ON RECEIPT OF THIS BILL  
ENTER METER READING HERE

McDONOUGH POWER COOPERATIVE  
PO BOX 352  
MACOMB IL 61455-0352

John Doe  
1234 Anywhere Street  
Any Town, IL 00000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT

McDonough Power Cooperative, 1210 West Jackson, PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455-0352  
Business Office: (309) 833-2101 Report All Outages: (309) 837-1400 Office Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday - Friday

STATEMENT IS PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

Account #:	00000000	KWH Usage	From 1/5/05	To 2/5/05	KWH Last Year 1000	Billed Last Year
Meter Number	Activity Since Last Bill	Previous Reading	Present Reading	Multiplier	KWH Usage	\$Amount
Balance:		5408	55048	1.0	1000	51.00
Total Payments:						46.17
Other Adjustments:						9.50
Balance Forward:						3.20

PPAC Per KWH includes S/L 0461700

Map Location	Net Amount Due	Past Due After	Amount With Penalty
1234-100A	\$109.87	5/17/05	\$115.56

Bill Type: Regular

Rate Schedule: Residential

Touchstone Energy

## McDonough Power plans to build new substation

Progress is being made to build a new substation southwest of Colchester. The substation will eliminate voltage problems and allow the cooperative to further divide our electric load, easing the summer peaking burden on the existing Colchester substation.

Nearly one year ago, a new three-phase line was built to supply service to Central Stone Company. Central Stone mines and crushes rock into various sizes. **1119C7-1002B**

The Cooperative plans to build the new substation north of the rock quarry and build three-phase distribution lines out to supply needed capacity to an existing three-phase feeder line serving the western service territory. The result of the new substation and new line construction will be improved power quality to consumers' service, as well as supply additional capacity for Central Stone's anticipated growth during the next few years.

Power quality and service reliability continue to be a priority. The cooperative has the responsibility to provide the electric power needed to Central Stone, as well as every consumer of McDonough Power.

McDonough Power will be working with our power supplier, CCS/Soyland, to construct the 69 kv substation and transmission lines while McDonough Power will build the 7.2 kv lines into the rock quarry. **331A7B-540A**

## If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know

While McDonough Power Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

Your cooperatives need to know the names and location of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members on life-support equipment, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or any member of your family depends on life-support equipment, please fill out the form below and mail it to us as quickly as possible.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Map Location No: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Support Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Days of Use: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an emergency stand-by generator to operate this equipment?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**Mail the above form to: McDonough Power Cooperative • PO Box 352 • Macomb, IL 61455**

# Have you ever attended your cooperative's annual meeting?

If you have not attended your co-op's annual meeting, you're missing a great experience. At the annual meeting you will learn about your cooperative's plans for the future, elect your board representation, get a chance at some great prizes, and have a chance to visit with old friends and the cooperative's employees.

And this experience is unique to cooperative members because cooperatives follow a set of seven principles that differentiate them from other electric utilities. These principles are:



1. **Voluntary and Open Membership.**  
Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
2. **Democratic Member Control.**  
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In electric cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one vote per member).
3. **Members' Economic Participation.**  
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. Members allocate surpluses for such purposes as developing the cooperative and setting up capital reserves.
4. **Autonomy and Independence.**  
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-op's autonomy.
5. **Education, Training and Information.**  
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-ops.
6. **Cooperation Among Co-ops.**  
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
7. **Concern for Community.**  
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Map location game

Every month, we will have 4 map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New! If you find your map location number, call the office with the page that you found it on and receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill. Keep reading the Watts New and win!



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**DENVER**

**(217) 743-5215 or  
(800) 213-1402**

For answers to your propane problems, ask for Joel Theis, Manager of MPC Energy at Blandinsville or Jerry Ross at Denver.

## What's wrong with meter estimating?



**M**any times people are tempted to estimate the amount of electricity they use for the month rather than take the time to get an accurate reading. We have some good advice for you: Do not estimate your usage. Take the time to read your meter. When you read your meter on a regular basis, this is an excellent way to be sure that your wiring and equipment are operating properly.

Estimated readings not only cause problems here in the office, but in due time will mean a problem for you. When members guess their usage over a period of months and then the meter is accurately read, they are surprised to find out that several hundred kilowatt-hours could be registered on the meter that have not been reported.

The first thing that the member does is inform us that something is wrong with our meter. This is actually a remote possibility. We are immediately asked to investigate this problem. The first thing that we usually ask is, "When did you first notice the increase in your usage?" The member does not know because he has not been reading the meter, and then the real problem comes out.

The member becomes very unhappy because he now has a huge bill to pay. We find it difficult to sympathize with him because he did not accept his responsibility to read his meter accurately. Please make it a habit to read your meter properly and on the same day each month so we can both avoid this type of problem. **7310A6-602A**

## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND SAVE MONEY WITH POWER NET GLOBAL

# 4.9¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

# 6.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

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- FREE to join
- FREE calling cards (13.9 cents per min. anytime – no surcharge)
- FREE 800 number Same rate as standard calls
- 6 second increment billing
- NO monthly fees
- NO monthly premiums
- NO term agreements
- NO codes to dial
- NO fly-by-night operation – respected carrier

For Additional Information, Call: 1(800) 381-2101

Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative, P.O. Box 352, Macomb, IL 61455

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards  Number of Cards Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455

32  
Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership



### Manager's report

Jon K. Miles

I recently had the opportunity to visit one of our cooperative's largest electric loads, Freeman Coal Mine. I was very impressed by what I saw.

Not only does Freeman provide a huge boost to the local economy (in terms of jobs and local purchases of supplies and goods), it has established an outstanding reclamation program of the land following the mining process. **7226A6-104A**

Wheat planted last fall is appearing across the acres of land. I spotted nearly 10 deer on the newly reclaimed land. Freeman plants a variety of trees to fit into the natural landscape of the surrounding wooded areas. It is my belief that Freeman Coal is a good steward of the land and they need to be commended for their plans and programs to restore the land. The following article gives a more in-depth look of the Industry Mine.

## Strip mine reveals all

by Gary Arnett,  
Industry Mine  
Superintendent

**F**reeman United Coal Mining Company's Industry Mine is located in McDonough County, approximately five miles west and two miles south of Industry. It has been in operation since 1982 and currently has 74 employees.



The Industry Mine is a surface coal mining operation, which can be described as removing strips of overburden material to expose the coal seam. A normal open pit at the Industry Mine has an average width of 100 feet. A 50 foot strip of coal is removed to create the "open pit" necessary to advance the active pit. Our 1050 Bucyrus-Erie shovel removes a 50-foot wide strip of consolidated material (rock) and places it or "spoils it" in the open pit. Our W-3 wheel excavator then removes a 50-foot strip of unconsolidated material (dirt) and places it on top of the leveled shovel rock spoil. A 50-foot wide strip of coal is again removed to create an open pit and the process begins again. The term "strip mining" came from this "mining in strips" method used to uncover the coal at a surface coal mine.



The raw coal in the pit is removed using a backhoe equipped with a 7 cubic-yard bucket. 100-ton trucks then take it to our preparation plant. Air and water are used to remove impurities from the coal so as to provide the customer with a clean, useable product. During a normal year, we will produce between 450,000 and 500,000 tons of clean coal.

Coal is shipped from the mine by over-the-road trucks, and goes to a variety of destinations in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Grain Processing Corporation, Williams Energy and some Archer Daniels Midland plants fire their boilers with Industry Mine coal to produce ethanol. Boilers are fired

■ (continued on 16b)

#### DIRECTORS

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Bill Pollock  
Stan Prox  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400

## OFFICE CLOSING

McDonough Power will be closed on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of Good Friday. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.



## It's the start of tornado season



### Map location game

Every month, we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New! If you find your map location number, call the office with the page that you found it on and receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill. Keep reading the Watts New and win!

at Western Illinois University, at the Illinois Secretary of State facility and at the Quincy Veterans Home to produce hot water and heat. Marshall Municipal and Dynergy Midwest used Industry Mine coal to produce electricity. We also have retail sales of our coal for the general public.

There are many measures in place for coalmines designed to protect the environment. Coal mining is one of the most highly regulated activities in the country; primarily regulated by the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Mines and Minerals administers this program. A variety of state agencies as well as the general public may review and comment on the permit application. Other permits and reclamation bonds are also required to ensure that the impact of the mining operation on the environment is minimized and the land is returned to a useful state as soon as possible.

The Industry Mine provides its employees with good paying jobs. A portion of the sales tax collected by the state on our coal sales is returned to the county. There are in excess of 40 vendors/suppliers in the area that do business with the Industry Mine on a regular basis. In fact, research shows that for every person working at the Industry Mine, five additional people will receive economic benefits as a result of the trickle down effect.

Additional information about Freeman United Coal Mining Co. may be found on our Web site at [www.freemanenergy.com](http://www.freemanenergy.com).

*Greg Arnett has worked for Freeman United Coal Mining Co. in various capacities for 26 years. For the past 2 1/2 years he has been the Industry Mine Superintendent. He also currently serves as the Director of Surface Operations and Environmental Compliance Manager for the company. 10323A2-354A*

Each year 1,000 tornadoes touch down in the U.S. Only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured is to be alert to the onset of severe weather.

If a tornado "watch" is issued for your area, it means that a tornado is possible. If a tornado "warning" is issued, it means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

**Be alert to what is happening outside as well. Here are some of the things to watch for:**

- A sickly greenish or greenish-black color to the sky.
- The fall of hail when a watch or warning is posted.
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- A sound, a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been compared to the sounds of railroad trains and jets.
- Debris dropping from the sky. **4212B4-1106B**
- An obvious "funnel-shaped" cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards.

In homes or other small buildings, the best places to take cover are:

- In a storm shelter specifically designed for that use.
- In a basement, away from the west and south walls. Hiding under a heavy worktable or under the stairs will protect the family from crumbling walls, chimneys and large airborne debris falling into the basement.
- In a small, windowless, first floor interior room like a closet or bathroom. The bathtub and commode are anchored directly into the ground, and sometimes are the only thing left in place after a tornado. Getting into the bathtub with a couch cushion over you gives you protection on all sides as well as an extra anchor to the foundation. If there is no downstairs bathroom and the closets are full, a hall may be the best shelter. Put as many walls as you can between yourself and the tornado.

■ (continued on 16c)

■ (continued from 16b)

**How to take shelter outside:**

- If you are in a car, and you can see a tornado forming or approaching, you should leave the car and take shelter in a ditch or low-lying area. You may think you can escape from a tornado by driving away from it, but you can't know what you may be driving into. A tornado can blow a car off a road, pick a car up and hurl it, or tumble a car over and over.
- An underpass may seem like a safe place, but may not be. The debris flying under the underpass could be very deadly...head for a ditch.

**Red Cross suggests that you assemble a "disaster supplies kit" that you keep in your shelter area. It should contain:**

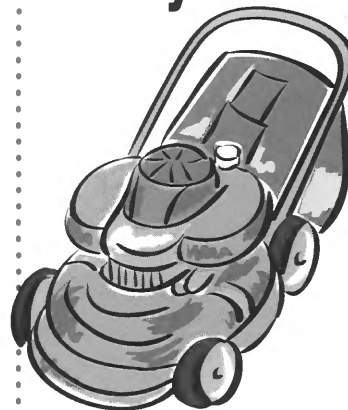
- A first aid kit with essential medication in addition to the usual items.
- A battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Canned and other non-perishable food and a hand operated can opener.
- Bottled water.
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves.
- Written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities.

One of the most dangerous tasks around the home is mowing the lawn. Many times we don't appreciate the full danger of a power mower, simply because we are lulled into a false security due to the routine and frequent use of the equipment. As many as 70,000 injuries occur each year; the two most common injuries are amputations and injuries from thrown objects. **5327D9A-260B**

Here are some guidelines to prevent injuries involving mowers:

- Before you mow, clear the yard of rocks, sticks, toys or anything else the mower might pick up and fling. Mowers can easily throw rocks or pieces of wire 40 feet.
- When starting a push mower, stand firmly with your feet in a safe position away from the blade, and have self-propelled mowers out of gear.
- Gas tanks should be filled outside. Never fill them to the top or while the engine is hot as this could cause a fire. Store gasoline in an approved, properly labeled container.
- Always turn the motor off completely and make certain the blade has stopped rotating before removing a foreign object or blockage.
- When operating a riding mower, keep your feet on the footrests. Remember that the mower can tip over easily. Always mow up and down a slope so that you are less likely to tip over. Know how to disengage the clutch and stop the engine.
- Never have a rider other than the operator on a riding mower.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Keep your mower in good repair.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment to protect yourself.
  - a. Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from dust and thrown objects.
  - b. Earplugs can provide protection against excess noise.
  - c. Wear long pants and long sleeves to protect the body from thrown objects or scratches from bushes and limbs. Make sure clothes fit - loose clothing can become caught in machinery.
  - d. Non-slip shoes can protect ankles and feet from cuts and help avoid slipping.
- After rain, wait for the grass to dry before mowing. Wet grass can make for slippery footing and may clog the chute on the mower.

## Lawn mowing safety



Earth Day



Earth day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**McDonough Power Cooperative**

1210 West Jackson Street • P.O. Box 352 • Macomb, Illinois 61455-0352

(309) 833-2101 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.

E-mail address: [mcdonpr@macomb.com](mailto:mcdonpr@macomb.com)

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**Open to all residents—do not need to be a McDonough Power member**

**ANYTIME – 24 hours per day – 7 days a week!**

**FREE to join**

**FREE calling cards**

(13.9 cents per min. anytime – no surcharge)

**FREE 800 number**

Same rate as standard calls

**6 second increment billing**

**NO monthly fees**

**NO monthly premiums**

**NO term agreements**

**NO codes to dial**

**NO fly-by-night**

**operation – respected carrier**



**For additional information, call: (1-800) 381-2101  
Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative  
PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound \_\_\_\_\_ 800Travel Cards - Number of cards needed \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.*

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

## Let's talk service



It's that time of year when we can expect spring storms to bring the much needed moisture to the fields, as well as replenish area rivers and ponds. However, along with the change of season, your cooperative can also expect to be affected by lightning and wind. You can be sure that McDonough Power will be there when you call for help to restore power. Your cooperative maintains highly trained personnel who rotate "on-call duty" to ensure the lights stay on each and every day of the year. If necessary, our personnel will work around the clock in an effort to restore service in areas affected by severe weather.

There are certain steps your cooperative puts into motion when severe weather affects a major area. It is often difficult to contact the dispatcher after hours when hundreds of calls begin to come in to report an outage. When you can't get through, we suggest that you call a neighbor to see if their power is out, and whether they have called in to report the outage. Unless a major portion of service territory is out of power, our dispatcher routinely handles the incoming calls, as well as directs our personnel to the area without power.

Many times, storm situations create less than ideal conditions to drive in and locate "trouble on the line."

McDonough Power has eleven local substations, each serving hundreds of cooperative members. When a major outage takes place, these substations are usually checked first to see if the problem is in the high voltage transmission system coming into the substation or the substation itself. **9320D4-660B**

If the problem cannot be found at a local distribution substation, the next step is to check the main distribution feeder lines that distribute power from the substation to consumers.

Then crews work to restore outages that are more localized by inspecting the final supply lines – called single-phase taps – that carry power out from the central substation.

And finally, isolated or "individual outages" caused, for example, by a tree limb through the secondary service wire between the transformer pole and meter pole – are repaired.

Now is a good time to mention that if you or your family depend on life support, call the office and let us know. Then we can be sure to make every effort to prioritize power restoration to you or advise you to seek care and shelter elsewhere if the power outage is expected to last some time.

We take service very seriously and pledge to do our best in providing the best service possible.

- DIRECTORS**  
**Jerry Riggins, Chairman**  
**Michael Cox, Vice Chairman**  
**Mark Anderson, Secretary**  
**Steve Lynn, Treasurer**  
**Steve Youngquist**  
**Howard Butler**  
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**John D. McMillan, Attorney**

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★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

### MEMORIAL DAY CLOSING

McDonough Power and MPC Energy will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27.

## Protect your homes from lightning

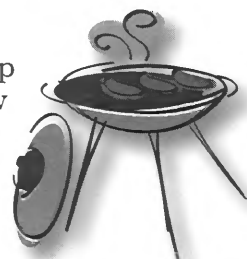
**W**ith lightning season upon us, it's time to think of protection against a strike. McDonough Power offers a whole house surge protector, which includes a service entrance. This entrance actually attaches behind your meter and protects your whole house, should the lightning come in through your main power line. This kit also includes an eight-outlet strip with two phone lines, three-outlet wall mount, single-outlet wall mount, single-outlet with cable TV module, single-outlet with telephone line module and a three-prong outlet tester. All items are also available separately.

As most homes now have a computer hooked up to the Internet, it is vital to protect it from surges. Make sure that you have your computer hooked up to a surge protector. An outlet strip is not the same thing. We recommend that you have the computer hooked up to a UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) and have the phone line protected as well. **4415D2-554B**

For more information on surge protection, contact Lynn Cavett at McDonough Power.

## Grilling season

**W**ith the warm weather, it's time to fire up those gas grills. If you're in need of a new grill, stop in at McDonough Power or MPC Energy and see what we have to offer.



## Remember Mom

**M**other's Day is May 11; why not remember mom by giving her a security light to brighten her yard. Security lighting is an inexpensive way of staying out of the dark. The costs range from \$2 to \$6 a month, depending on where the light is located compared to the meter.



## Map location game

**E**very month, we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New! If you find your map location number, call the office with the page that you found it on and receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill. Keep reading the Watts New and win!

## McDonough Power receives safety award at state conference



**M**cDonough Power received a safety award recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The member-owned electric cooperative received an award for "best accident/illness record" for the year 2002. The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). From left, AIEC Vice President of Operations John Freitag presents the award to McDonough Power Cooperative Operations Supervisor, Gary Budreau, on behalf of the safe work practices of all the cooperative employees during 2002. **7413A6-604B**

**J**erry Riggins represents members of McDonough Power Cooperative in District 2. Jerry was elected to the McDonough Power board in August of 1988 and currently serves as Board Chairman. He is also Vice Chairman of the MPC Energy board.

District 2 includes all of Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County.

Jerry was born and raised in the Macomb area. He lived in Bethel Township until his teens, when they moved to Macomb. While in Bethel Township, his family was a member of McDonough Power Cooperative so he knows a great deal about life in rural America.

While growing up, Jerry was very active in 4-H and was a member of the Industry Methodist Church. He spent a lot of time swimming at Glenwood Pool since his grandparents managed the pool.

After graduating from Western High in Macomb in 1968, Jerry attended WIU and earned a degree in animal science.

In addition to his work on the McDonough Power and MPC Energy boards, Jerry has served on the Industry School Board for three years. He and his family are also members of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Macomb.

"I have really enjoyed my time on the McDonough Power board. I feel we have an excellent group of employees, both past and present," Jerry said. "I feel we have accomplished significant things throughout the cooperative and hope to carry on the high level of service our members have come to expect from McDonough Power."

Jerry and his wife Lynne (Johnson, who is also from Macomb) were married in 1971. They moved to their current residence in Bethel Township in 1973, where they farm and own a grain and livestock operation. Jerry and Lynne have four children – Andy and Holly and granddaughter Katie; Lisa and Steve Hood and granddaughter Sidney; Carrie who will graduate from U of I in May; and Emily who is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Jerry enjoys camping, swimming and spending time with his children and grandchildren. **5511D4-256A**

## Meet Jerry Riggins

*President of McDonough Power Board, District 2*



### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352 • Macomb,  
Illinois 61455-0352  
(309) 833-2101  
Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
E-mail address:  
mcdonpr@macomb.com

### Macomb's Home and Lifestyle Show

**M**cDonough Power, MPC Energy and Alert Security were all present at this year's Home and Lifestyle Show, held at WIU on March 2 and 3. Pictured are MPC Energy Manager Joel Theis, McDonough Power Member Service Rep C. Lynn Cavett, and Security Consultant with Alert Security Tally McDonald. Also joining them this year were representatives from the Macomb Fire Department.



# WISH YOUR MOM A HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY AND SAVE MONEY WITH

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Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## FILL YOUR PROPANE TANK NOW CALL MPC ENERGY, INC.

**BLANDINSVILLE**  
(309) 652-3103 or  
(800) 635-2085

**DENVER**  
(217) 743-5215 or  
(800) 213-1402

For answers to your propane problems, ask for Joel Theis, Manager of MPC Energy at Blandinsville or Jerry Ross at Denver.



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455

## A live voice at the other end

The other day, I was sitting in a chair at home in the early evening hours reading the daily newspaper when the lights blinked off for about one second and came right back on. For that brief moment the house became silent. The lights and electric clocks were momentarily off and when they came back on, they were blinking at me.

After thinking about the brief electrical interruption, I was reminded of the steps and information needed to report an outage to my power supplier, McDonough Power Cooperative. Thankfully, the short interruption didn't require a crew to be called out, but the incident caused me to think about what to do next.

While I was thinking of the steps required to make the call to the cooperative's dispatcher, I was reminded of my previous electric utility provider's automated voice system for after-hours service. I remember when the utility made the change to the automated voice system. The change required the old phone numbers to be fed into the automated system. It can be quite frustrating to go through the various prompts to report an outage – hoping you punched all the correct buttons on the phone's keypad in the dark. **7312A1-602A**

The possibility of customers trying to reach a "live person" to report an outage has become nearly impossible. I don't know about you, but I would rather talk to a live person any day. I want to make sure that the cooperative knows that I am out of power.

While the automated systems were supposed to provide better and quicker service, utility management's real aim was to downsize the organization. In some cases, while it may sound like a good idea, the automated system has been a public relations disaster.

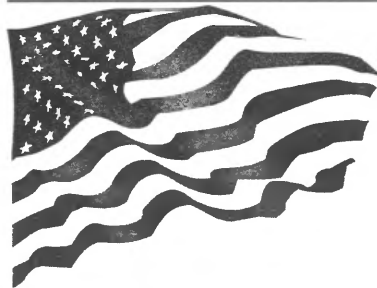
At McDonough Power the "power of human connections" counts, and when downsizing and cost-cutting destroy that valuable link, consumer backlash is inevitable. We believe contact with our consumers is important, especially when you need to contact us to report a need for service. We pride ourselves in making every reasonable effort to update and incorporate new technology into the cooperative way of doing business. But, we won't make unnecessary changes that sacrifice the "connection" that sets us apart from other businesses that seem too busy to listen to customers concerns.

### DIRECTORS

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Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
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Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
Steve Youngquist  
Howard Butler  
Jeffrey Moore  
Bill Pollock  
Stan Prox  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric  
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A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative   
The power of human connections



## Flag Day

With all that is happening in the world right now, it is a perfect time to show our support for the United States. Remember to fly your flag proudly on June 14, National Flag Day.

## Meet Steve Lynn, District 5



**S**teve Lynn represents members of the McDonough Power Cooperative for District 5. He was elected as a director to the McDonough Power board in August 1994 and now serves as the board Treasurer. He is also serving as Treasurer of the MPC Energy board.

District 5 is composed of the east half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County. A small part of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County are also included in District 5.

Steve has served nine years as a director for McDonough Power. "I want to thank the members for allowing me to serve on the board," Steve says. "I believe we have a great group of employees who are very well trained. I enjoy working with the board of directors as we continue to improve our cooperative."

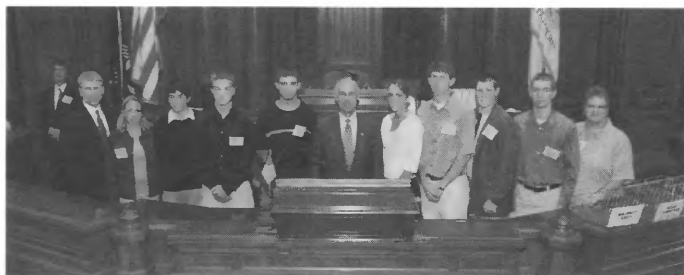
Steve was born and raised in the Macomb area. While growing up he was active in 4-H and FFA. He graduated from Bardolph High School in 1967 and attended heavy equipment school in Chicago. He then married Rose Marie O'Hern (originally from Vermont) in 1969. They lived in New Salem Township until 1979 when they moved to Mound Township. Rose Marie serves as a director for McDonough Telephone Cooperative. **8120B4-832A**

Steve farms approximately 600 acres and Rose Marie operates her Christmas ornament business "Dough Delights" from their home. Steve and Rose Marie have four children and five grandchildren - Angela and Scott Hance, grandson Alex and granddaughter Emily; Gigi and Mitch Lehenbauer, grandson Max; Mitch and Angie Lynn, granddaughters Madison and Camryn; and Curt who is a sophomore at Western Illinois University.

In his spare time Steve enjoys remodeling their home. They installed a Geothermal System in 1998 and most recently added a small sunroom. Steve's hobbies include woodworking, gardening, swimming and spoiling his grandchildren.

## Illinois Electric and Telephone Coop- erative's Youth Day

**E**ight students representing McDonough Power Cooperative met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative's Youth Day on Wednesday, April 2, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, they had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court, tour the Governor's Mansion, and visit Lincoln's Tomb. Shown with Representative Rich Myers are (from left) Jon Miles, cooperative President and CEO, Jennifer Coates of Warren High School; Michael Bloom and Jon Root of Macomb High School; Chase DeCounter of Northwestern High School; Rich Myers; Monica Knowles of Northwestern High School; Caleb Hall of Colchester High School; Brandon Hall of Industry High School; Jacob Coutre' of Colchester High School and chaperone Dawn Beck.



### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street • P.O. Box 352 • Macomb, Illinois 61455-0352  
(309) 833-2101 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
E-mail address: mcdonpr@macomb.com

**J**on K. Miles, President and CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative is pleased to announce that Leslie Dunham from Industry High School and Caleb Hall from Colchester High School, were chosen recently to represent the cooperative in Washington D.C., June 13-20, 2003. Jennifer Coates from Warren High School was chosen as alternate.

They will team up with 70 other high school students throughout Illinois for this eight-day trip. Leaving by bus from Springfield, they will tour many historic sights throughout Washington D.C. as well as the capitol, and meet with their respective legislators.

Finalists were chosen based on their written personal profile as well as a personal interview.

Leslie is the daughter of Ron and Janet Fowler of Macomb and Grant and Amalia Dunham. She is a sophomore at Industry High School. Leslie is involved in a variety of activities and sports, including Scholastic Bowl, Academic Challenge, Student Council and volleyball.

A junior at Colchester High School, Caleb is the son of Tim and Kim Hall from Colchester. Caleb is very active in the drama club, band, chorus FBLA, Spanish club, Yearbook, Student Council, Scholastic Bowl, basketball and baseball.

Jennifer Coates, daughter of Edward and Mary Coates from Monmouth, is a junior at Warren High School. She is involved in Student Council, Math Team, WYSE, Scholastic Bowl, jazz band, swing choir, track, basketball and volleyball. **441 1A9A-554C**

McDonough Power is very pleased to have these young adults represent the cooperative this summer.

**I**t's that time of year again when we have what is known as "peak alert." A "peak alert" is a situation whereby the cooperative asks all members for their assistance in controlling the demand for electricity when the overall demand is at a maximum. Usually, but not always, this situation will occur on a day when the temperature is 90 degrees or above. When everyone works together, it really does make a difference. By reducing or controlling the peak demand of electricity, members can minimize the cost of wholesale power purchased by McDonough Power.

When a "peak alert" is issued by our wholesale power provider, Soyland Power Cooperative, McDonough Power asks some commercial and industrial accounts, as well as some large farm operations, who are on interruptible rates, to interrupt their electric service.

The "peak alert" season will begin on June 1 and will run through September 15. As mentioned earlier, temperature contributes to a "peak alert." "Peak alerts" usually begin around noon and can last until 10:00 p.m. They do not happen on weekends or holidays.

The employees and board of directors of McDonough Power would like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation. It is very much appreciated.

**E**very month, we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New! If you find your map location number, call the office with the page that you found it on and receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill. Keep reading the Watts New and win!

## Area youths to represent McDonough Power



## "Peak Alert" Season

## Map location game

# MPC Energy

Delivering more than just propane... delivering service

"From tank to burner tip, we can service the whole system."



**M**PC Energy was formed when McDonough Power Cooperative decided to diversify into the propane business. MPC energy formed a partnership with an existing propane company, Thermogas in April 1999. Thermogas had been in business in McDonough County for more than 30 years. The partnership was named MPC Energy Thermogas. In July 2000, McDonough Power purchased the remaining shares of the company and MPC Energy became a wholly owned subsidiary of McDonough Power Cooperative.

"Over the years, we have seen a gradual deterioration of service to customers in various businesses. I remember the "old days" of what it meant when you pulled in to a full-service gas station. At MPC Energy, our goal of providing full service to our customers remains a priority. Full service is what MPC Energy is all about," says McDonough Power President/CEO Jon Miles. **6326AA16-750C**

The partnership was originally formed because of the synergy between cooperative members and Thermogas customers. "Since electric cooperatives and propane companies serve primarily rural customers, it was a good fit," says MPC Manager Joel Theis.

"I consider us a full-service propane company," says Theis. "There are a lot of hose-end gas companies that put gas in the tank and that's it. We don't stop there. We offer bulk propane delivery for residential, farm and commercial customers, and offer cylinder services such as filling, cylinder re-qualification and valve replacement. We also offer our customers a full range of services such as supplying bulk tanks, inside and outside gas line installation, and gas appliance sales, service and installation. From tank to burner tip, we can service the entire system."

Part of MPC Energy's service to its customers involves safety programs. "We are, of course, concerned about customer safety due to the nature of our product. We perform leak tests for customers who suspect a leak or are installing a new service, and provide carbon monoxide testing too," says Theis. "We also provide literature to all of our customers to educate them about propane safety."

MPC Energy also offers two popular programs to suit differing customer needs, a budget plan to make payments easier, and a courtesy fill program. The budget plan is an even monthly payment that levels out a customer's propane bills. "Under the courtesy fill program, MPC Energy is responsible for automatically refilling the customer's tank. The customer does not have to worry about running out of gas," says Theis.

And of course the heart of any company is its employees. McDonough Power Cooperative hired all of the experienced Thermogas employees when it acquired the company. "All of our employees have completed CTEP, which is a national training program for propane employees. They are well trained and highly qualified," says Theis, who has worked at the Blandinsville office for 22 years.

Call MPC Energy today at its Blandinsville or Denver offices. Numbers and employees of each office are listed below.

## Blandinsville office

(800) 635-2085 or (309) 652-3103

Bill Eddington, Driver (11 years)

Mike Vincent, Driver (16 years)

Jim Luster, Seasonal Driver (8 years)

Jamie Shafer, Seasonal Driver (1 year)

Allen Scheffler, Serviceman (6 years)

Denise Swanson, Office Manager (2 years)

Joel Theis, Manager (22 years)

## Denver office

(800) 213-1402 or (217) 743-5215

Jerry Ross, Plant Supervisor (35 years)

Lee Woodside, Serviceman (28 years)

Gary Rampley, Driver/Service (28 years)

Richard "Swede" Hendrickson, Driver (11 years)





# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

## Nominating Committee met on June 5

**M**embers of the 2003 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee met at Cerar's Barnstormer in Monmouth on June 5, at 7 p.m., to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2003 annual meeting of members to be held September 8, at the Fellheimer Auditorium in Macomb.

- **District 1** (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Robert Derry, 1007 W Grant St., Macomb IL 61455.
- **District 2** (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County): Jere Greuel 15775 N 300th Rd., Industry, IL 61440; Todd Dixon, 3105 E 500th St., Plymouth, IL 62367.
- **District 3** (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the West half of Chalmers Townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County): Sheridan Miller, 5210 N 900th Rd., Colchester IL 62326.
- **District 4** (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett Townships in McDonough County): Dane Metcalf, 600 Blairmore Rd., Blandinsville, IL 61420.
- **District 5** (composed of the East half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County and part of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County): David Grove, 22480 N 550th Rd., Table Grove, IL 61482; Scott Coker, 11461 E 1600th St., Macomb, IL 61455.
- **District 6** (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City Townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): Larry Bradford, PO Box 35, Good Hope IL.
- **District 7** (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in McDonough County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Jerry Payne, 14701 N 2400th Rd., Roseville, IL 61473.
- **District 8** (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): Robert Pierce, 1223 160th Ave., Cameron, IL 61423; Herbert Stinemates, 445 140th Ave, Kirkwood, IL 61447.
- **District 9** (composed of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd and Berwick Townships in Warren County and parts of Galesburg, Cedar and Indian Point Townships in Knox County): Lauren Still, 1476 190th Ave., Cameron, IL 61423. **8310A1-362C**

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations of the board of directors may be made by: (1) the Nominating Committee, (2) A

(continued on page 16b)

- DIRECTORS**  
 Jerry Riggins, Chairman  
 Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
 Mark Anderson, Secretary  
 Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
 Steve Youngquist  
 Howard Butler  
 Jeffrey Moore  
 Bill Pollock  
 Stan Prox  
 John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400

(continued from page 16a)

## Map location game

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## Meet Howard Butler – District 8



petition signed by 15 or more active members, the petition must be received at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting or, (3) Nominations can be made from the floor at the annual meeting. **3210B8-536C**

The terms of directors from Districts 2, 5 and 8 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our board of directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, William Pollock; District 4, Stan Prox; District 5, Steven L. Lynn; District 6, Jeffrey N. Moore; District 7, Mark Anderson; District 8, Howard Butler; and District 9, Steven Youngquist. Section 5. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than 120 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected and one member from each of the other districts served by the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting. Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of members.

Howard Butler represents members in District 8. Howard was elected to the board in August of 1979 and has served the board in various positions.

District 8 is composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County.

Howard was born and raised in the Kirkwood, Illinois area and graduated from Monmouth High School. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. He married the former Luan Doll of Bushnell on October 1, 1961, and has lived on the family farm east of Monmouth since that time. He retired from active farming in 1998, but continues to live on the farm and assist neighbors at various times with farming duties.

In addition to serving on the McDonough Power board, Howard has served on the Warren County Farm Bureau board and the board of Stockland F.S. **6210A2-108B**

"The years I have spent on the McDonough Power board have been the most rewarding," Howard says. "It has been my privilege to have served with a great group of directors both past and present. There have been a lot of challenges and changes over the years and I believe we have a great future in serving the needs of the members of this cooperative. We have a great group of employees who are dedicated to the success of the co-op."

Howard and Luan have two daughters, Beverly (and Kurt) Tolliver of Highland Village, Texas and Linda of Springfield, Illinois. They have two granddaughters in Texas, Annie and Allison.

Howard and Luan are members of the United Methodist Church of Monmouth and enjoy camping, gardening, traveling and spending time with their family.

**S**ummertime can spawn severe, damaging storms and heavy rain. Safe Electricity would like to remind people of the increased electrocution risks that storms and flooding can cause and offers safety tips to avoid serious injury or death when dealing with the aftermath of a major storm or disaster.

"The danger does not end when the storm does," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It's wise to be cautious in any clean-up effort."

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it's raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces.

"Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off," said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter." **11120D7-1004B**

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

"Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks," said Solomon. "Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out."

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.com](http://www.SafeElectricity.com). Safe Electricity is a statewide electrical safety public awareness program. The program was created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives, and investor-owned electric utilities from throughout the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.



## Stay safe after storms

### "Peak 90"

McDonough Power is encouraging you to remember "Peak 90" June 1 - September 15. We are requesting McDonough Power members use major appliances or equipment before 12 noon or after 10 p.m. This helps control our peak demand and allows us to pass the savings on to you.

### McDonough Power Cooperative

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**OFFICE  
CLOSING**

**W**e will be closed on Friday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 7.

Stay in touch with friends this Independence Day  
and save money with

# POWER NET GLOBAL

## 4.9¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

## 6.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

Open to all residents—  
do not need to be a McDonough Power member

**ANYTIME – 24 hours per day – 7 days a week!**

**FREE** to join

**FREE** calling cards

(13.9 cents per min. anytime –  
no surcharge)

**FREE** 800 number

Same rate as standard calls

**6 second increment billing**

**NO** monthly fees

**NO** monthly premiums

**NO** term agreements

**NO** codes to dial

**NO** fly-by-night

operation –

respected carrier



For additional information, call: (1-800) 381-2101

Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative • PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

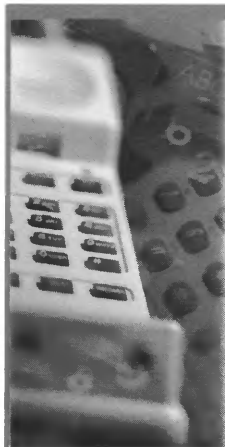
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound \_\_\_\_\_ 800Travel Cards - Number of cards needed \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.*

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## FILL YOUR PROPANE TANK NOW CALL MPC ENERGY, INC.

**BLANDINSVILLE**

(309) 652-3103 or  
(800) 635-2085

**DENVER**

(217) 743-5215 or  
(800) 213-1402

For answers to your propane problems, ask for Joel Theis, Manager of MPC Energy at Blandinsville or Jerry Ross at Denver.

# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

## A time to reflect

It's been nearly one year since I assumed the duties and responsibilities of President and CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative. Without a doubt, the past 12 months have been challenging, educational and rewarding.

Being from Kansas, the new position involved relocating my family to Macomb. The move went without a hitch thanks to the assistance, support and warm welcome from the entire community.

I know it sounds like a worn out cliché, but, the past year has gone quickly. McDonough Power continues to provide electric service to its members at the lowest possible cost. And, the cooperative's propane subsidiary, MPC Energy, continues to be a "good fit" to many of the same customer-consumers of the propane company and electric cooperative.

So far this year, your cooperative has performed well both financially and operationally. Fortunately, severe storms haven't ripped through our service territory like they have in some neighboring counties.

The future will continue to offer challenges. Over the years, the electric utility industry has gone through some rather revolutionary changes. A major challenge in recent years was to deregulate or open up the electric utility industry to competition. In some states, the move to deregulate or un-bundle the various components of the electric utility industry was disastrous for consumers. Most of you will recall the blackouts and brownouts in California when the electric grid ran short of needed electric capacity.

At that same time, a lack of rainfall in the northwest states hampered the required amount of electric generation capacity at hydropower plants all along the west coast. **12126C4-1059B**

The price for energy skyrocketed and consumers were angry. There were allegations from some electric utility experts that large electric utilities in the west manipulated the (market) prices during the peak summer season. I am happy to report that the utilities involved did not include rural electric cooperatives.

During the past year, I have learned a lot about Continental Cooperative Services (CCS), our wholesale power supplier. As other sources of fuel continue to experience significant price volatility, your cooperative has worked with CCS to obtain and secure a power supply contract that ensures stable wholesale rates for the next five to six years. That's good news for you, the consumer.

McDonough Power is dedicated to providing the best service possible to its members. This goal is a continual work in progress. As the membership continues to change and evolve, we will strive to meet the expectations and needs of the members.

I encourage you to let us know how we're doing. Give us your thoughts and ideas regarding how we might serve you better.

And lastly, the most rewarding experience this past year deals directly with the many fine people I've had the opportunity and privilege to work with - the board of directors, employees and consumers of McDonough Power Cooperative and MPC Energy.

Thank you for the kindness and patience you have shown during my first year at McDonough Power.

**DIRECTORS**  
Jerry Riggins, Chairman  
Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
Mark Anderson, Secretary  
Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
Steve Youngquist  
Howard Butler  
Jeffrey Moore  
Bill Pollock  
Stan Prox  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

## 2003 annual meeting

## Nominating report

## “Peak 90”

**P**lan to attend the 2003 annual meeting of McDonough Power Cooperative on Monday, September 8 at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School in Macomb.

Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment by Missy Vail from 6:15-7:00. Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

One grand prize winner will receive \$1,200/year or \$100/month credit toward their electric bill.

New this year is a McDonough Power Youngster Drawing for a \$50 savings bond. This is for students from 12<sup>th</sup> grade and down. **8038-68818**

Look for more information in the September issue of the Illinois Country Living!

**P**ursuant to the Bylaws, members of the nominating committee met at Cerar's Restaurant in Monmouth, Illinois, on June 5, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. to nominate candidates for election as directors at McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2003.

The following members were present:

Jerry Payne	Herb Stinemates
Robert H. Peirce	Scott Coker
Sheridan Miller	Robert E. Derry
Dane Metcalf	Larry Bradford
Todd D. Dixon	David Grove
Jere K. Greuel	Lauren Still

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for director to serve a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting.

District #2 – Jerry Riggins

District #5 – Steven L. Lynn

District #8 – Arthur H. Butler

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Additional nominations for directors may be made from the floor at the meeting. **8310A9-788**

Scott Coker, Chairman

Dated: June 5, 2003

**M**cDonough Power is encouraging you to remember “**Peak 90**” June 1 – September 15. We are requesting McDonough Power members use major appliances or equipment before 12 noon or after 10 p.m. This helps control our peak demand and allows us to pass the savings on to you.

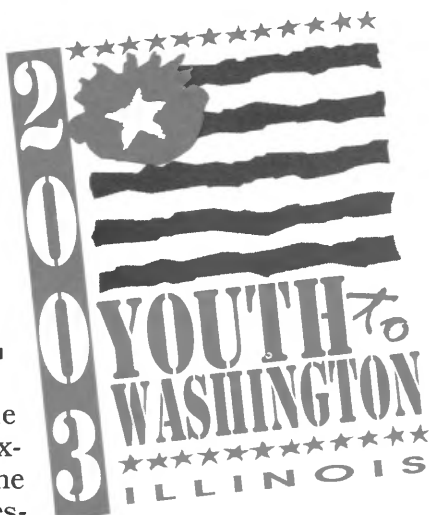
## WINNER! WINNER! WINNER!

Ross Young at location number 7312A1-602A found his location number in the June issue of the Illinois Country Living and received a \$10 credit toward his July bill. Congratulations!

### McDonough Power Cooperative

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# Students represent cooperative in Washington, D.C.



Two area youths spent the week of June 13 - 20 exploring Washington D.C. The students met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to government and cooperatives

Leslie Dunham from Industry and Caleb Hall from Colchester represented McDonough Power Cooperative. Two of the chaperones for this year's trip, were Dawn Beck, Administrative Assistant for McDonough Power and her husband Ken. The students met with Congressmen Lane Evans on Capitol Hill and were among 60 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, Gettysburg Battlefields, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and a number of Presidential monuments and other historical sites.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capitol, all the state groups convened for Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included a survivor of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who described his harrowing experience and miraculous survival. Birdwell touched on the importance of selfless service and accepting life's responsibilities. 651A6-275A



## Office closing

We will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2.



## Map location game

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Stay in touch with friends and family  
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**FREE** calling cards

(13.9 cents per min. anytime –  
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Same rate as standard calls

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**operation – respected  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

## Wholesale electric power contract paying off in volatile market

**R**ecent market and low inventory conditions are placing significant pressure on pricing for natural gas. Newspapers and television reports are warning consumers of anticipated high natural gas prices during the upcoming winter heating season. Predictions seem to indicate that prices could double over the course of the next several months.

The market volatility, price spikes and related low fuel inventories preparing for the heating season, is in stark contrast to the stability of electric rates. Not much has been said regarding the absence of price spikes for electricity.

I would point to deregulation as part of the cause for the pricing volatility and market uncertainty. While deregulation may sound like a good idea, recent events and experiences in states that have implemented deregulation have not all been positive.

In a couple of cases, preparation to deregulate the energy markets paved the way for corporate scandal and financial abuse resulting in loss of credibility for large companies and distrust in the financial markets. **9210A8-314B**


While regulation can be burdensome and costly, it does establish a certain level of accountability and responsibility and ensures consumers that their interests are best served and protected.

The good news is this: McDonough Power's wholesale power costs are expected to remain stable for the next 4-5 years. Nearly 18 months ago, McDonough Power locked in a very attractive "market power" contract for power that will provide rate stability for consumers until 2008. That means that McDonough Power consumers will not see the sharp prices spikes and volatility that is causing concern for natural gas customers this winter.

It should be comforting to know that when winter arrives you won't be exposed to price spikes on your electric bill. Your cooperative's board of directors and management team are working to keep your rates as low as possible in today's turbulent energy markets.

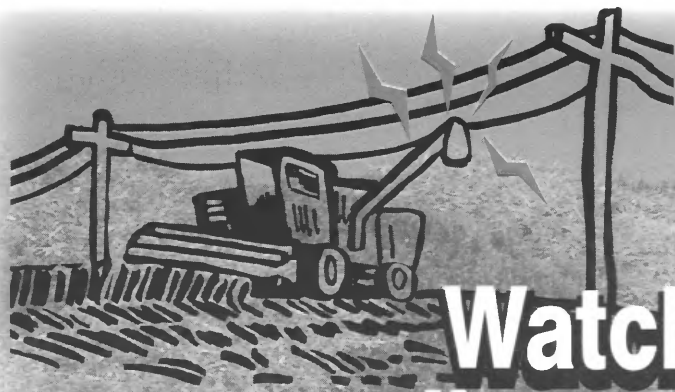
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All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400



**LABOR DAY CLOSING**  
 McDonough Power will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2.

**LABOR DAY**



# Watch for overhead power lines during harvest

Dozens of farm workers are killed by electrocution each year when their farm machines and equipment make contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable.

With harvest season getting underway, Safe Electricity and McDonough Power Cooperative urges farm workers to take note of electrical lines when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons and large combines, and to use a qualified electrician for electrical system repairs. **3310C7-540A**

"The rush to harvest can cause farm workers to skip important safety steps," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "Tragic deaths and injuries can be avoided if precautions are taken, like making sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them."

"Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest," says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Moving portable grain augers poses the greatest risk because those who are on the ground moving the equipment would provide a direct path for electricity if there's a contact with overhead wires."

"Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result," Aherin says.

Farm workers also are advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins and to use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

"It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall says. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's a fire or imminent risk of fire." **7310A6-602A**

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the

*(Continued on pg. 16c)*

## Map location game

Every month we will randomly draw four location numbers and insert them throughout the center section. If you find your location number, call our office and tell us what page it is on and you'll receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill.

(Continued from pg. 16b)

vehicle and ground at the same time and continue to shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

"Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source," Aherin says. "Stepping from one voltage to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you."

"Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle – the person must jump clear."

Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity, a statewide program created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including Illinois investor-owned electric utilities, electric cooperatives and the University of Illinois. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), a non-profit industry forum that launched the safety awareness program last year.

In addition to public service announcements and other outreach efforts, Safe Electricity has an online electrical safety center, [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). The section on Agribusiness provides tips and detailed information for farm workers. Residential safety, contractor safety, school teacher resources, and youth games and activities also can be found on this Web site.

## 2003 Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monday, September 8, 2003

Fellheimer Auditorium • Macomb Jr./Sr. High School  
1525 South Johnson St., Macomb Illinois

- 6:15 p.m. – Entertainment by Missy Vail
- Election of Directors – Report of Officers and President
- \$5 will be credited to October bill for registering
- Drawings for ten \$10 credits on October energy bill
- \$25 name-a-minute drawing
- Drawing for Grand Prize and other door prizes

**Drawing of prizes – Members must be present to be eligible for all prize drawings and you must be an active member of your cooperative.**

**Grand prize - \$1,200/year or \$100/month credit toward your electric bill!**

### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352 • Macomb,  
Illinois 61455-0352  
(309) 833-2101  
Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
E-mail address:  
[mcdonpr@macomb.com](mailto:mcdonpr@macomb.com)

## “Peak 90”

McDonough Power is encouraging you to remember “Peak 90” June 1 – September 15. We are requesting McDonough Power members use major appliances or equipment before 12 Noon or after 10 p.m. This helps control our peak demand and allows us to pass the savings on to you. **551C2-272C**



Stay in touch with friends and family on Labor Day,  
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**For additional information, call: (1-800) 381-2101**

**Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative • PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

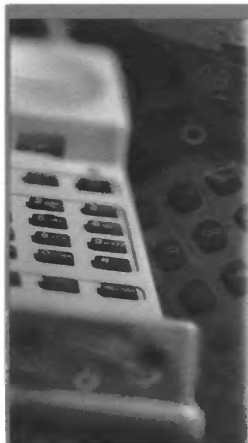
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound \_\_\_\_\_ 800Travel Cards - Number of cards needed \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.*

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



Jon K. Miles

### Across the Manager's desk

## The August blackout

As I write this month's column, change at the national and local level seems to move at a rapid pace that will affect the consumer members of McDonough Power Cooperative.

For several weeks, Congress has been involved in the process of working to finalize legislation to restructure the electric utility industry. There is a great deal at stake with restructuring an industry that over the years has performed responsibly and reliably.

Restructuring became a hot topic in many state legislatures across the country in the early 1990s. In recent years, electric utilities have grappled with their responsibility to build new generation and transmission lines – both fearing that the investment may become "stranded" in the chaotic restructuring frenzy, and questioning whether the electric utility making the investment would have the opportunity to recover those costs. Because of the concern that the industry was going to be restructured, electric utilities moved forward with caution in terms of building new generation and transmission.

The pressure for Congress to do something continues to grow day by day. The recent blackout on August 14 in North America spread across large swaths of Northeast and Midwest America and Canada, impacting an estimated 50 million people, didn't help matters.

The electric industry is an extremely complex system and the generation and transmission grid was never engineered or designed to serve large multi-state regions. Coordination and communication between regional system operators is critical as demand and energy needs shift during peak summer periods.

Power and energy going through what is known as supervisory controlled automated data acquisition, (SCADA) is monitored and tracked on a minute-by-minute basis by regional grid operators to determine the routing and dispatching of energy to areas where it is needed.

Unfortunately, the public is already being warned of potential cost increases to "fix the problem" and no one is absolutely sure yet of the exact cause. **5210A7-950B**

You can be assured that McDonough Power will do its part in protecting and voicing concern of the member's interest from any hasty decision at the federal level for a quick fix at the expense of the ratepayers.

### Progress on the Central Stone Substation

The new Central Stone Substation located southeast of Tennessee continues to make significant progress. Soyland Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission cooperative service provider, has set the new transmission poles and completed most of the work on the new substation. So far, the project has gone well and plans are to energize the new substation in late October or early November.

Our crews will soon begin construction of the three phase feeder lines to shift some of the load from two other area substations. The substation and distribution lines will improve service and reliability to a sizeable portion of our service territory.

#### DIRECTORS

Jerry Riggins, Chairman  
Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
Mark Anderson, Secretary  
Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
Steve Youngquist  
Howard Butler  
Jeffrey Moore  
Bill Pollock  
Stan Prox  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric  
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# October is Cooperative Month

## Map location game

Every month we will have 4 map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New. If you find your map location number, call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We would like to thank all the members who attended our annual meeting on September 8. Stay tuned for more information on the meeting in next month's issue of *Illinois Country Living!*

### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street  
• P.O. Box 352 • Macomb,  
Illinois 61455-0352  
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Illinois' 26 electric cooperatives do business the cooperative way and they are celebrating that fact during the entire month of October as all cooperative businesses across the country celebrate Cooperative Month. **9211D4A-314B**

### What is a cooperative?

Cooperatives are member-owned and democratically controlled enterprises, created and used by their member-owners to provide goods and services. A co-op operates for the benefit of its member-owners. Across America, 120 million people are finding solutions to community needs by forming cooperative businesses. This means cost savings, less risk and more choices for America's consumers and producers.

### Some compelling statistics:

- Electric cooperatives operate nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the United States and provide electricity for 34 million people – that's more than one in 10 Americans.
- About 30 percent of farmers' products in the U.S. are marketed through cooperatives.
- More than 20 cooperatives have annual sales in excess of \$1 billion, including such well known names as Land O'Lakes, Inc., Ocean Spray and ACE Hardware.
- Credit Unions have more than 76 million members and assets in excess of \$100 billion.
- More than 50 million Americans are served by insurance companies owned by or closely affiliated with cooperatives.
- Food cooperatives have been innovators in the marketplace in the areas of unit pricing, consumer protection and nutritional labeling.
- Retailer-owned food and hardware cooperatives make it possible for hundreds of independent store owners to successfully compete with large chains.

### Cooperatives yield tremendous economic impact:

- Cooperatives yield tremendous economic impact. Today, there are more than 48,000 cooperatives in the United States generating in excess of \$500 billion in economic activity.
- Revenue generated by cooperatives tends to stay in the community as it is distributed to local members rather than removed shareholders.
- Cooperatives exist not to generate a profit for themselves or outside investors, as do other businesses, but rather to provide goods and services at the lowest possible cost.

Cooperatives epitomize democratic and moral principals:

- Cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people who use them. Member control is generally on a one member, one vote basis.
- Cooperatives enable members to reap the benefits of a joint endeavor while maintaining their independence.
- The cooperative option provides consumers and producers with more options. And more choice means a more innovative marketplace and more accessible products and services. **8210D3-804A**

# Harvest Safety

Dozens of farm workers are killed by electrocution each year when their farm machines and equipment make contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable. Farm workers should take note of electrical lines when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons and large combines; and workers should use a qualified electrician for electrical system repairs.

"The rush to harvest can cause farm workers to skip important safety steps," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "Tragic deaths and injuries can be avoided if precautions are taken, like making sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them." **4310A7-558B**

"Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest," says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Moving portable grain augers poses the greatest risk because those who are on the ground moving the equipment would provide a direct path for electricity if there's a contact with overhead wires."

Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.

Farm workers also are advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins and to use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line. It's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time and continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source. Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you.

Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle – the person must jump clear.



## Willie says, "Boo to you!"

Willie wants you to have a screamingly fun Halloween, but he also wants you to celebrate as safely as possible.

Here are some Willie warnings:

- Trick or treat only at the homes of friends.
- Choose costumes that are nonflammable and light-colored.
- Know phone numbers and addresses of parties your teenagers might attend.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully; watch for children on roadways, medians and curbs.

A little caution and common sense are all it takes for a perfect Halloween. And...don't forget to leave the porch light on for the safe return home!



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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455

### 2003 Annual Meeting review

**M**ore than 260 members of McDonough Power Cooperative attended this year's meeting. As these photos indicate, members' had their toes tapping with country western singer Missy Vail, heard about new plans for the cooperative, learned about the affects of deregulation and the northeast blackouts, elected board directors, met co-op employees and chatted with old friends and neighbors. Thanks to all members who participated. We hope to see you again next year!

9217C7A-306B



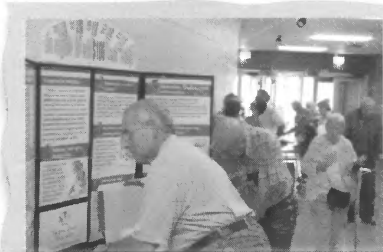
Members elected three local men to represent them on the co-op's board of directors. Standing from left are Arthur "Howard" Butler of Monmouth and Steve Lynn of Macomb. Seated from left are Jerry Riggins of Macomb and President/CEO Jon Miles.



An elected board of directors allows the co-op to be democratically controlled by its members. Here, the entire board poses for a photo wearing their patriotic red, white and blue ties. From left are Jon Miles, Steve Lynn, Stan Prox, Bill Pollock, Jerry Riggins, Steve Youngquist, Howard Butler, Mike Cox, Mark Anderson and Jeff Moore.



President/CEO Jon Miles explained deregulation and the recent blackouts to members, along with introducing co-op employees and giving service awards.



Many members chose to complete a survey about their annual meeting experience, and be entered into a \$100 drawing.



Board Chairman Jerry Riggins of Macomb is congratulated by his granddaughter Sidney for a job well done speaking to members about electric competition and a new co-op substation near Central Stone Rock Quarry.

(Continued on 16b)

# 2003 Annual Meeting review

(Continued from 16a)

**GRAND PRIZE  
WINNER**  
Charles Murdock



Members filled the auditorium at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School for the meeting again this year.

Missy Vail charmed the audience with her beautiful voice and wide range of talent singing country songs from the classics to brand new hits. Missy grew up in the surrounding area of the co-op.

## Map location game

Every month we will randomly draw four location numbers and insert them throughout the center section. If you find your location number, call our office and tell us what page it is on and you'll receive a \$10 credit on your next month's electric bill.



Boy Scout Troop #332 presented the colors at this year's meeting. Missy Vail provided moving renditions of *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*.



Members always allow plenty of time for visiting at the meeting.



Members were able to ask questions about any of the co-op's services.

# Reflections of the 2003 McDonough Power Annual Meeting



## Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

While the 2003 Annual Meeting is still fresh in our minds, it is appropriate to reflect on what your cooperative can do to improve the meeting for next year. The value and importance of your input regarding the direction and expectation cannot be over-emphasized.

Without a doubt, the times continue to change, as well as the membership itself now comprised of four generational groups: traditionalists (born pre-1946), baby boomers (born 1947-1964), generation X (born 1965-1981) and millenials (born 1982-2000). Each generational group brings valuable insight towards defining what the future of the Cooperative should look like. The challenge going forward will be to evolve and change operationally and welcome the benefits of new technology to meet the expectations of a younger and technically savvy group of Gen-X and Millenials, now living on cooperative lines.

As the Board of Directors and management discuss plans and ideas to improve attendance and participation at next year's meeting, we would like to hear from you. While the annual meeting was well attended, there was a larger percentage of the membership not in attendance, possibly due to a variety of reasons or scheduling conflicts.

To be able to honestly evaluate the annual meeting, the Board and management sincerely desire to hear from members who attended the meeting, as well as those who chose not to attend and why. We invite and encourage your honest thoughts and ideas to improve attendance. Jot down your suggestions and send them in with your power bill payment. The responses will be shared with the Board of Directors for consideration to implement possible changes for next year!

Thank you.

- DIRECTORS**  
 Jerry Riggins, Chairman  
 Michael Cox, Vice Chairman  
 Mark Anderson, Secretary  
 Steve Lynn, Treasurer  
 Steve Youngquist  
 Howard Butler  
 Jeffrey Moore  
 Bill Pollock  
 Stan Prox  
 John D. McMillan, Attorney

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# Thanksgiving

Here comes another Thanksgiving with football games and the fixings. The folks at McDonough Power Cooperative want to remind you of the real meaning of this holiday - to say "thanks."

McDonough Power says "thanks" to all their employees and board members who work hard to fulfill the co-op's mission. And their business associates and neighbors throughout the community deserve a big thank you as well. **324B2-538C**

And, of course, the folks at McDonough Power want to thank all their member-owners whose involvement and support help them do their jobs better. Everyone at McDonough Power hopes you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**Thanksgiving closing** - In honor of Thanksgiving, McDonough Power will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28. We will reopen on Monday, December 1.

## Heating system health checkup

## Why electric bills go up in the winter

**A**s fall arrives, it's time to have your heating system checked and serviced by a qualified professional. No matter what kind of system you have, a heating system check-up will ensure that it's operating efficiently and safely before the first cold days arrive.

That heating safety check should also include any portable heaters that you may be using. Make sure the cord to a portable electric heater is in good condition and that the switches and controls are all working properly. **12236A7-1058B**


If you use a fireplace or wood stove during the winter, have the chimney cleaned and the flues checked out. Taking these simple steps now can help you stay comfortable – and safe – this winter.

**E**ven those consumers who do not have electric heat can see their bills increase in the winter, and they wonder why.

It's often hard to pin down the reason because we all take electricity for granted and use it with little thought. If we try to back-track and think about our usage, it's hard to get a clear picture.

Here are a few items that might contribute to higher bills this time of year; **5523C2-256A**


1. Extra holiday cooking and baking.
2. Using more lights because days are shorter.
3. Most heating systems require electric power in some way. Even gas furnaces need electricity to operate the fan. And heating systems run almost continuously when it's extremely cold.
4. Some people use electric space heaters in spare rooms, garages, workshops and pump houses.
5. Engine heaters for cars and tractors may be used.
6. Electric blankets are used to keep cozy.
7. Clothes dryers are used more in the winter.
8. Outdoor lights are on more in the winter as well as additional Christmas lights.
9. Electric heat tapes may be used to keep pipes from freezing.
10. More TV is watched in the winter. Reruns are gone; outdoor recreational activities and daylight are limited. It's couch-potato time.



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---	--

For answers to your propane problems, ask for Joel Theis, Manager of MPC Energy at Blandinsville or Jerry Ross at Denver.



**Veterans Day closing**

We will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.  
We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12.

# Watts

## NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative  
Macomb, Illinois 61455



### Across the Manager's desk

Jon K. Miles

## The future looks bright

As we near the end of another successful year, the board of directors, management and employees would like to express our appreciation to you, the members. During the past twelve months, there has been significant progress on several construction projects, as well as some operational improvements aimed at improving the cooperative's level of service.

Planning for next year's projects is already underway. Management and staff have worked to finalize a construction work plan and maintenance projects to be completed during 2004. Your Cooperative's board of directors will make important decisions concerning future wholesale power supply options for consumers' energy needs beyond the year 2008. The August 14 blackout in the northeast has placed a great deal of pressure on reliability of electric industry. **11216C1-1066B**

Although the coming New Year will bring plenty of challenges, the future of your cooperative looks bright. In recent weeks, a number of new services have been built and the need continues to serve existing member-owners throughout parts of seven counties.

Your employees and staff will meet each new challenge with determination and confidence. As always, we are interested in hearing from you regarding your thoughts concerning how we might better serve you.

On behalf of McDonough Power Cooperative's board of directors and employees, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season with family and friends. We look forward to serving you in the coming New Year.

We wouldn't want it any other way.

## Forget all those wonderful Christmas songs about open fires and Christmas trees

The combination of blazing fireplaces and Christmas trees make for great Christmas carols. But they're a bad combination for your family's safety. A dry evergreen is highly flammable. Sometimes, even a minor spark can ignite it. And, of course, fireplaces open to a room are notorious for all kinds of sparks.

So place your tree in a room separated from your fireplace if possible. If it's not possible, be sure there is plenty of distance between them. And never leave an open fire blazing near your Christmas tree when going to bed or leaving home.

McDonough Power wants you to have a very Merry Christmas, but leave the open fires and Christmas trees to the carols, not your living room.



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## Resolutions

The holiday season will soon be here and, before you know it, a new year will begin. The folks at McDonough Power Cooperative are making a few New Year's resolutions for 2004. And, at the top of their list is a pledge to their consumer-owners and our community to keep on delivering the best service possible.

Another resolution from McDonough Power is to invite and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with the co-op – that way McDonough Power can know how they're doing in serving the entire community. **6426C8-273B**

So make a resolution or two for your New Year while the folks at McDonough Power wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

*This was written by a McDonough Power Cooperative member, Annette Mates, during an outage on December 9, 1994.*

## Poetry by Candlelight



The lights went out at 7:31  
The TV blacked out, there went my fun.  
I sat in confusion for a second or two,  
To consider the best thing that I could do.  
I went for the flashlight to get candles and such,  
At last I had light, but not very much.  
I called up my neighbor to ask of their plight,  
But he wasn't surprised, said "We have ice tonight."  
Then I thought of the number you call in distress,  
For some kind of magic to get out of this mess.  
But their phone was busy, someone else was calling,  
I put on more clothes, the temperature was falling.  
I put a pan full of water on the stove to get steam,  
I could go to bed, and get warm in a dream.  
So I made me hot chocolate, my insides are content,  
Here comes the power truck, my problems just went.



## Map location game

Every month we will have 4 map location numbers hidden throughout the Watts New. If you find your map location number, call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

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Stan Prox  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400

## Holiday Office Closing



We will be closed on Thursday, December 25th in observance of Christmas. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 26th. We will also be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2004 for New Years Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 2nd.

# Christmas trivia



“White Christmas” (1954), starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, was the first movie to be made in Vista Vision, a deep-focus process.

“Wassail” comes from the Old Norse “ves heill” – to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health.

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard. **8331A1-654B**

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, Americans buy 37.1 million real Christmas trees each year; 25 percent

of them are from the nation’s 5000 choose-and-cut farms.

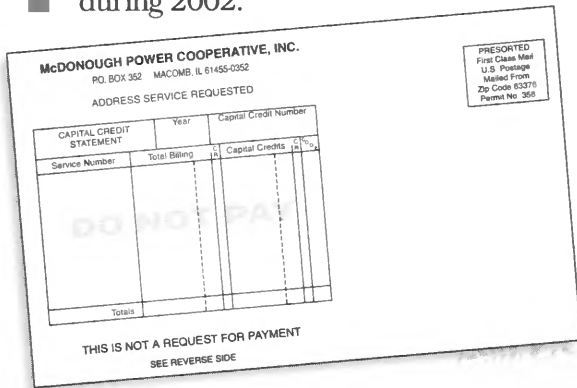
After “A Christmas Carol,” Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. This tradition began in 1836.

Although many believe the Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year, it is not. It is the fifth to tenth busiest day. The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the two busiest shopping days of the year.

## Capital credits are not being refunded at this time.

**Y**ou may receive a card that looks like this if you were a McDonough Power member during 2002.



This card is...

- To inform you of the amount that was allocated to your capital credit account for 2002.
- A statement of your **equity** in McDonough Power Cooperative
- **Not a bill.** You do not owe this amount.
- **Not a notice of a credit balance in your billing account**
- **Not a cash refund notice**

What are capital credits, and how do they benefit you?

McDonough Power Cooperative is operated on a not-for-profit basis. Electric cooperatives, unlike investor-owned utilities, are owned by the members they serve. When you pay your energy bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative. It's similar to building equity in your home

as funds are applied toward the principle.

Margins in excess of the cost to serve members are used as operating capital. When the cooperative realizes a positive margin (excess of income over expenses), the margins are **allocated** through a capital credits system according to your usage. This is called capital credit allocation.

Each member is assigned an individual capital credit account, **separate from your billing account.** Whenever funds are allocated to your capital credit account, your **equity** in the cooperative increases.

What's the difference between allocating and refunding capital credits?

The board of directors determines when capital credits may be refunded to members for previous years of patronage. Capital credits are refunded as the financial condition of the cooperative permits.

Keep your address current. If you cease to purchase energy from McDonough Power, please keep us informed of your address. This will enable us to forward payment when capital credits are refunded for past years' earnings. In the event of a member's death, the estate can continue to receive an annual check or cash out the capital credits at a discounted retirement.

Are allocated Capital Credits taxable?

Under the current laws, no part of the capital credits allocated to you by McDonough Power Cooperative is taxable. **5524C4-256A**

Stay in touch with friends and family this holiday season and save money with PowerNet Global.

# POWER NET GLOBAL

## 4.9¢ 6.9¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE



Open to all residents— do not need to be a McDonough Power member

**ANYTIME – 24 hours per day – 7 days a week!**

**FREE** to join

**FREE** calling cards

(13.9 cents per min. anytime – no surcharge)

**FREE** 800 number

Same rate as standard calls

**6 second increment billing**

**NO** monthly fees

**NO** monthly premiums

**NO** term agreements

**NO** codes to dial

**NO** fly-by-night

operation –

respected carrier

For additional information, call: (1-800) 381-2101

Mail the attached form to: McDonough Power Cooperative • PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound \_\_\_\_\_ 800Travel Cards - Number of cards needed \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.*

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street • P.O. Box 352 • Macomb, Illinois 61455-0352  
(309) 833-2101 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. • E-mail address: mcdonpr@macomb.com