

Watts

NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative
Macomb, Illinois 61455

McDonough Power Cooperative Cares

McDonough Power Cooperative in Macomb recently delivered 23 Thanksgiving Day food baskets and 48 winter coats through its McDonough Power Cooperative Cares Fund.

The food baskets were delivered to area families in need and 48 children, identified by teachers from six local schools, received winter coats.

"These donations are just one of the ways McDonough Power shows its commitment to community, one of our core principles," says President/CEO Steve Epperson. "We are proud to serve the needs of our members as well as others in the community."

Employees and directors donate to the fund as well as salvage scrap metal items to raise additional monies throughout the year. The cooperative is working to gain charity status for the fund so others may contribute to it as well. **321B8-1112A**



Records Clerk Kelly Hamm and Administrative Assistant Dawn Beck of McDonough Power Cooperative in Macomb helped prepare 23 Thanksgiving Day food baskets for delivery to area families in need.



Gary Bureau, Frank Fay, Tim Norton and Ron Paulsen prepared 48 winter coats for area children.

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:
billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman
Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman
Steve Youngquist, Secretary
Stan Prox, Treasurer
Robert J. Dwyer
Steve Hall
Jeffrey Moore
Bill Pollock
Jerry Riggins
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

A New Year, A Safe Home

Use this checklist every year to keep your family safe.

Electrical shocks and fire kill more than a thousand people and result in tens of thousands of injuries each year. Overloaded outlets, misused and faulty cords and electrical devices are leading causes of home electrical fires.

Make a check every year for electrical fire and shock hazards:

- **Electrical Outlets** – check for loose-fitting plugs, which can produce a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.

- **Plugs** – never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

- **Cords** – make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpet or rugs or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

- **Extension cords** – use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.

- **Light bulbs** – check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

- **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** – make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.

- **Circuit breakers/fuses** – fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

- **Appliances/Electronics** – if an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

- **Electrical wiring** – wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker. **8120SL516-832A**

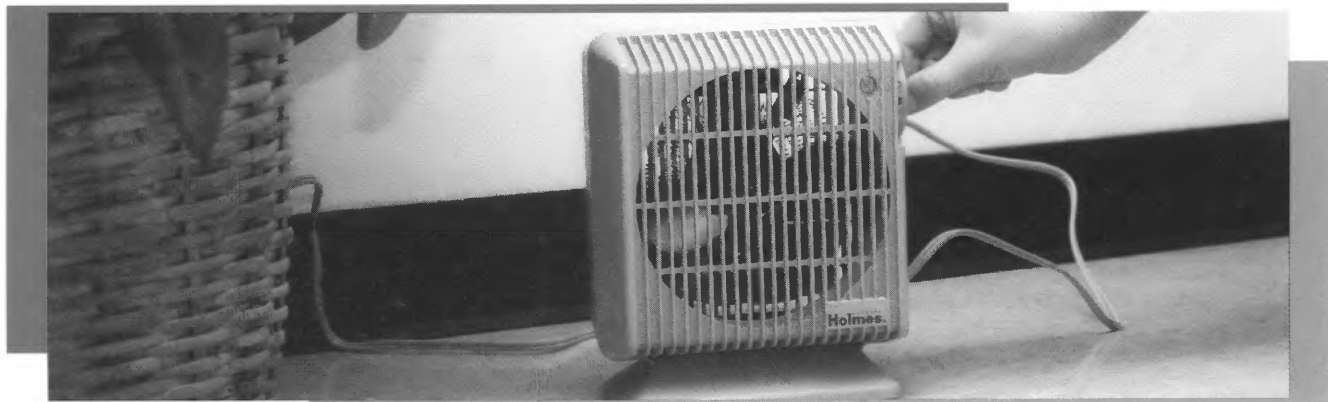
- **Service capacity** – as you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase electrical service and add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Use Caution With Space Heaters, Supplemental Heating Equipment

Heating appliances are the leading culprit of home fires during cold weather. Falling temperatures and rising heat costs have many looking at ways to lower home-heating bills. Safe Electricity urges extreme caution for those planning to use electric space heaters to help warm homes this winter.

- on a level, hard non-flammable floor surface – NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops.
- Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet from all flammable items such as draperies, blankets and sofas.
- Do not overload circuits. Don't use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged



Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold, home-heating season of December, January and February. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the major cause of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of supplemental heating equipment, such as space heaters.

"Portable heaters can help take the chill from areas of your home, but are very dangerous if used improperly," says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Director. "Stay warm and safe, and give space heaters space – at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, including little fingers!"

Some cities have banned the use of many types of portable space heaters. Before purchasing or using any type of space heater, check with your local fire department to find out if it is legal in your community.

Safe Electricity offers the following precautions when using electric space heaters:

- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and rated. Make sure the unit is equipped with automatic shut-off features and heating element guard. Read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for operation and care.
- Before use, check to make sure the heater is in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired.
- Place heater out of high-traffic areas and

into the same circuit as other electric appliances. **101E31B8A-462B**

- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.

"Remember, never allow children or pets near an electric heater," warns Hall, "Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns."

Many people also use electric blankets to keep warm during cold winter nights. Before plugging in electric blankets, check for any damage and inspect cord for frays, cracks or cuts. Electric blankets should not be tucked under the mattress and nothing should be placed on top of the blanket while it's used, including comforters and bedspreads. Also, pets should never be allowed to sleep on the electric blanket.

Safe Electricity also reminds everyone to make sure smoke alarms in your home are installed and working properly.

For more electrical safety information, visit the SafeElectricity.org Web site. Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives and investor-owned electric utilities, and other entities dedicated to promoting electric safety.

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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



New Employee

- Kelly Hamm

We would like to welcome Kelly Hamm to our Co-op family! Kelly started as Record's Clerk/PR Specialist on November 6. She lives in Macomb with her husband, Josh, and son, Connor, who is 2. Kelly previously worked as Branch Manager at First Bankers Trust Company. She enjoys taking and editing digital photos, spending time with her family, decorating and weekend getaways! **4410B7-1200B**

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

POWER NET GLOBAL

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 | NO monthly fees |
| FREE calling cards | NO monthly premiums |
| (12.9 cents per min. anytime – no surcharge) | NO term agreements |
| FREE 800 number | NO codes to dial |
| Same rate as standard calls | NO fly-by-night operation – respected carrier |
| | 6 second increment billing |

4.5¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

4.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

For additional information or to sign up over the phone please call: (888) 414-4116.

Tell them you want to sign up with PowerNet Global through McDonough Power.

Or you can 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

The Gift That Lasts; Give Your Valentine A Healthier Heart

Instead of wrapping up a box of chocolates for your Valentine this year, surprise the one you love with a far more enduring gift, a healthier heart.

February is National Heart Month, after all, and healthy hearts begin with the food we eat. Healthy food begins with cooking. This year, consider giving a kitchen appliance that helps your honey cook without so much fat and calories. Microwaves, bread makers, special indoor grills and rice steamers, for instance, make quick work of a low-fat dinner.

Nutritionists claim the microwave is one of the best appliances for preparing heart-healthy, low-fat meals. Microwaves can steam vegetables or cook meat and potatoes without added oils.

Likewise, convection ovens allow fat to drip from baked, boiled or roasted meat, making for a lower-fat meal. And smokeless electric indoor barbecues are great for grilling a low-fat wintertime meal.

Cooks who use crock-pots and slow roasters need to add little or no extra fat to their recipes. **531C1-900C**

And for snacks, food dehydrators turn fruits and vegetables into tasty, reduced-fat treats. Bread makers allow the cook to control the amount of sugar, fat and salt added to breads, pastries and other baked goods.

So cheers to a healthier heart starting this February!



Is a household member dependent on electric life-support equipment?

If the answer is "Yes," you can register for our critical care priority list. Simply fax or mail us a letter completed by a medical provider, which states the medical condition. Also include the patient's name, the name on the McDonough Power account, the address and the phone number. Our fax number is 309-833-2104, and the address is McDonough Power Cooperative, PO Box 352, Macomb, IL 61455.

Please note: This does not guarantee uninterrupted service. You are advised to have back-up generation or make arrangements to relocate the patient if necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions About Power Outages



1. What should I do if my power goes out?

Before calling the cooperative, first check your breaker box to determine if the cause of the power failure is inside your home or business. If it's night, look outside to see if streetlights and neighbors' lights are also out. If it appears that the problem is on McDonough Power's system, call us. It doesn't matter what time it is or what the weather conditions are, McDonough Power linemen will be dispatched. **313B6-1154B**

When you call (309) 837-1400 during regular business hours (Mon-Fri 8-5) you will speak with one of our employees. After hours, our dispatching service will answer. Please select option 1 to report your outage. Listen carefully and follow directions on the automated system. You will be asked to enter the phone number where the power is out. A third option allows you to leave a voice message.

2. How does McDonough Power prioritize outage restoration?

Line personnel first repair substations and major lines, followed by equipment on the taps leading away from the source.

By repairing three-phase services first, followed by single-phase services, we are able to restore power to the greatest number of members first. **9328A2-360A**

Priority is also given to key services essential to community safety, health and welfare – such as communications, water sanitation and transportation providers.

3. Does McDonough Power Cooperative know when I've lost electric power, or should I call to report my outage?

Don't assume someone else has called McDonough Power to report the outage in your area. If only one person calls, it may appear the outage is isolated to just one service. When calls are received from various segments along the distribution line, it alerts personnel to the source of the problem.

4. Should I call again if my neighbors get their power restored and I still don't have it?

Yes. There may be damage to your individual electric service.

5. How can I tell if a fallen line is energized?

Treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact McDonough Power. Call the local police department if the line is down in an area that would endanger public safety.

6. Who is responsible for trimming trees that fall in or near power lines? 11129A3-1004B

Removing trees and debris that have damaged electrical equipment is one of our top priorities. If a tree or limbs have fallen onto a power line, do not attempt to get close to the line or the tree. Call McDonough Power and report the line is down.

7. Why would McDonough Power crews pass my house without repairing anything?

If you see a McDonough Power crew passing but not stopping, it may be because work at a nearby location must be performed before electric service can be restored to you and your neighbors.

8. Will McDonough Power pay for food that spoils during an outage, or damage to appliances, electronic equipment or other personal property damaged during power restoration?

McDonough Power cannot guarantee uninterrupted service due to forces beyond the co-op's control. Therefore, McDonough Power is not responsible to pay for food that might spoil during an electric outage, or to replace electrical equipment that is damaged during power restoration. During an extended power outage, avoid opening refrigerators and freezers to prolong the life of perishable foods. Unplug appliances during an outage and leave one light turned on, so you'll know when the power is restored.

9. I have underground electric service. Why should I ever experience a power outage during a storm?

Even though the service line to your home is underground, the electricity that is delivered to your home is carried through overhead transmission and distribution lines. Therefore, any damage along the path leading to your transformer will interrupt your electric service.

10. Why can't McDonough Power give more specific information about when my power will be restored?

During a widespread outage, there may be several factors involved in the cause of your outage, and therefore McDonough Power crews can't restore your power until all those conditions are corrected. Sometimes that includes loss of transmission service to our substations from our transmission provider.

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:
billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Jeffrey Moore

Bill Pollock

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
The power of human connections



McDonough Power Cooperative Application for Automatic Payment Plan

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a **VOIDED CHECK** to McDonough Power Cooperative, PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

McDonough Power Account Number: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account Number: _____

I, _____, authorize McDonough Power Cooperative to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying McDonough Power Cooperative in writing. Both McDonough Power Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with ten (10) days written notice. I understand that McDonough Power Cooperative reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand that the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 10th or next business day thereafter. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my McDonough Power Cooperative account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Watts

NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative
Macomb, Illinois 61455

Icy Outages Restored



Steve Epperson
Manager

On Friday, January 12, 2007, sleet and freezing rain began to fall and ice formed over trees and power lines, causing outages to many of our members. We immediately began sending out line crews to begin repairing lines.

Power was completely restored to all members by Sunday. We had hoped to see only snow on Sunday night, but more ice formed. By Monday morning, the ice accumulation had caused approximately 1,000 more outages scattered across our service territory.

McDonough Power's line crews worked to restore power, and office personnel worked around the clock as well to coordinate restoration efforts and answer phones from Monday morning until Wednesday, January 17, when all members had power restored.



Restoring power took a while because of the scattered nature of the outages and icy road conditions that delayed trucks. Most of the outages were caused by trees. Please read "Tree Trimming Helps Prevent Outages" on page 16b for more information on how you can help us avoid such outages in the future. **9333C7-666A**

The outages could have lasted longer, if not for cooperation among cooperatives, one of our founding principles. One of the strengths of McDonough Power is that our employees are very dedicated. And statewide, other electric cooperative employees always rally to help sister co-ops.

Our crews received help from Shelby Electric Cooperative in Shelbyville, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Mattoon, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola, Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Eldorado, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton and three contractor crews. Without the help of these crews, restoration efforts would have taken weeks rather than days.

Because McDonough Power had not been affected during the November 30 ice storm, we sent two of our own crews to aid another cooperative. And now, when we needed help ourselves, other cooperatives came to our aid. That's just one more benefit of being a cooperative.

Tree Trimming Helps Prevent Outages



Many of the outages that occurred after the January 14 ice accumulations were due to tree limbs covered in ice that then broke and fell onto our lines. **11213D1-1052C**

Almost all electric utilities and cooperatives have a vegetation program or a forestry program to cut, trim or spray trees and vegetation under their overhead electric lines.

At McDonough Power we try to trim trees at least 15-20 feet from either side of the line and then straight up. So there may be a tree that is 20 feet from the line but if it has limbs within 6-8 feet of the line we would trim those limbs. In most cases that is enough to help prevent outages due to falling tree limbs. In the case of an ice storm there could be entire trees that are quite a distance from our lines that could still fall on the lines. That is further complicated by ice being on the lines. With a large buildup of ice on the lines, if a limb falls on a line, there is a domino affect with the poles and it is not uncommon to have 20 or more poles snap and lines go down.

Once in a while, we may receive a complaint from member when we trim trees be-

cause no matter how we do it, the appearance of the trees is altered. We face a real dilemma. How much should we trim to protect our lines from possible damage and how far back can we trim without annoying our members? We elected to use the criteria of trimming and cutting 15-20 feet on either side of our line.

What can McDonough Power do to reduce the chance of major outages due to an ice storm? We would like to implement a five to six year rotation for vegetation control. That means that once we trim or spray in an area, we should be back in that area within five to six years to do it again.

What can you the member do to help the cooperative? Do not plant trees under the power lines. Although we have Right of Way Easements that entitle us to clear the easement under our line we like to do so with the cooperation of our members. Try to be understanding when we trim the trees under our lines that are on your property!

Our goal is to provide reliable electric service and that takes the cooperation of everyone. Let's not wait until Mother Nature takes down the trees and the power lines around them.

What's Wrong With Meter Estimating?

Many 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 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 are registered on the meter that have not been reported.

The first thing that the member does is to 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. **6322A2-212B**

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.

Don't Use Utility Poles To Post Signs, Ribbons And Banners

Posting signs, hanging banners or tying ribbons and balloons onto utility poles can endanger utility workers and often is a violation of local ordinances forbidding placement of anything on poles.

Help protect those who work to provide electrical service and other utilities. Remember that anything on a pole can cause power line workers to slip. The clamped, safety boots worn by line workers to climb poles are especially vulnerable to becoming snagged and caught on staples and nails embedded in poles. Foreign objects can also tear utility workers' clothing or injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces.

Such practices endanger more than those who keep the lights on. The paraphernalia on the poles becomes a public safety hazard by distracting people as they drive, a safety hazard for the young and old alike as they walk.

Please help utility workers to work safely and refrain from hanging objects on utility poles!

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:

billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman
Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman
Steve Youngquist, Secretary
Stan Prox, Treasurer
Robert J. Dwyer
Steve Hall
Jeffrey Moore
Bill Pollock
Jerry Riggins
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Farm Electrical Safety Is Never Out Of Season

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on today's farms.

Before heading back into the fields this spring, Safe Electricity and McDonough Power remind farm workers to be particularly alert to dangers working near overhead power lines and urges review of farm activities and work practices that take place around all electric lines.

"Educate all who work on the farm about power line hazards," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "Make sure everyone knows the location of overhead power lines and remind workers to keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them."

Before excavating or digging, Hall also reminds farmers to call J.U.L.I.E.

"Keep in mind, the minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines," reminds Hall. "It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives."

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or a truck.

"Many farm electrical accidents involving power lines occur when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while working on farm machinery near power lines," notes Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter to help ensure that contact is not made with a line."

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Also avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines. Be aware that many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have antennas extending from the cab to 15 feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

"Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path," warns Aherin.

When performing other farm chores, as in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.

Do not try to clear storm damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call McDonough Power.

"Operators of farm machinery or moving equipment also should know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall said. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away 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 to the ground 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 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. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment. **812OSL130-832A**

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place. If planning a new out building or farm structure, contact your power supplier for information on minimum safe clearances from overhead and underground power lines.

Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric cooperatives, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.



Watts

NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative
Macomb, Illinois 61455

Safe Arbor Day Tree Planting Tips

Trees that grow too close to electrical lines can create power outages, shock and fire hazards.

As part of Arbor Day observances in April, Safe Electricity and McDonough Power Cooperative remind members of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines, and to seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with their electric supply.

"Trees provide many aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits, including energy - efficient shade and cooling during peak electric usage" says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "But, everyone needs to be aware of the dangers and risks created when trees grow into power lines, and the importance of calling the utility or utility locator service before beginning any landscaping project.

"Landowners need to understand utility line clearance practices and why they're important to safe and reliable electric service," says Hall.

Trees conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if limbs grow too close to electric lines. Power outages or flickers can occur when trees and branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires. But a much greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or person playing or trimming around the tree could be fatal.

Trees growing near power lines must be pruned to maintain a safe distance from the wires. If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your electric provider. Never try to prune them yourself. Utilities have skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearances.

To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planning tips to remember this Arbor Day include:

- ⇒ Consider mature height of trees. Do not plant near overhead power lines any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended. **611C8A-168A**
- ⇒ Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- ⇒ Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- ⇒ Before digging, call JULIE to mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

(Continued on 16d)



McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:
billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman
Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman
Steve Youngquist, Secretary
Stan Prox, Treasurer
Robert J. Dwyer
Steve Hall
Jeffrey Moore
Bill Pollock
Jerry Riggins
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Avoid Outdoor Electrical Hazards At Home And At Work

The arrival of spring brings warmer weather and an increase in outdoor work, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). ESFI notes that following safety rules can reduce electrical deaths and injuries:

- Ladders that contact a power line can prove fatal, even if the ladder is made of wood.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing and repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass when using electricity.

Power Line Safety

ESFI also encourages those on the job to look up, look down, and look out for electrical safety hazards. On average, 325 people die and 4,400 are injured each year because of electrical hazards, according to data published by the National Safety Council. Electricity ranks sixth among all causes of occupational fatalities. The leading cause of fatal electrical incidents while on the job is contact with power lines, both above and below ground.

Workers using ladders or scaffolds, and those carrying aluminum siding, poles, fencing and even lumber, need to be aware and stay clear of power lines. Such contacts caused approximately 22 percent of the work related fatalities over a seven-year-period, according to research ("Occupational Electrical Injuries in the US, 1992-1993," published in the Journal of Safety Research). Eliminating power line contacts with equipment such as cranes, boom trucks and dump trucks could reduce workplace electrical fatalities by another 17 percent annually, the study suggests. The study also notes that construction workers, who make up approximately 7 percent of the U.S. workforce, suffer 44 percent of the electrical fatalities. Electrical safety experts suggest that the best insulator to keep workers safe from electricity is to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines. **7136C9-168A**

Office Closing

McDonough Power will be closed on Friday, April 6 for Good Friday. As always, if you have a power outage, please call 309-837-1400.



Yard Sales Buy & Sell with Care

It's yard sale season and lots of people love getting bargains. As the saying goes, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." But before forking over cash, parents or anyone living in a household with children should stop, inspect and think before they buy.

Why? Because old products that were once considered safe may have since been found to be hazardous. These old items often find their way into resale shops and garage or yard sales. If purchased, the items go back into homes where their use could turn to tragedy. You can do your part by going to the federal government's product recall Web site – www.recalls.gov. Browse for any products you plan to sell in a yard or garage sale or before using anything you have already purchased.

Here is a partial list of items often resold that could be dangerous to children according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

- **Cribs** – If made before CPSC and industry safety standards were established, these cribs can entrap, strangle or suffocate children. More than 2-3/8 inches between crib slats or cut-outs on the headboards or footboards present suffocation and strangulation hazards. Cribs that have broken or missing parts or corner posts higher than 1/16 inch present a risk of death. There are about 20 deaths a year from using older and used crib models. If you're throwing an old crib out, destroy it. Use only cribs that meet current standards.
 - **Play yards and playpens** – Faulty top and side rails on playpens, portable cribs and play yards with mesh sides can strangle young children. More than 1,000 children under the age of five are treated in emergency rooms each year from injuries in play yards; five die.
 - **Infant car seats/carriers** – When used as a carrier, old car seats can eject infants because the handles break or side locks break.
 - **Old baby walkers** – Older walkers can fit through standard doorways and do not stop at the top of stairs. Newer styles are safer. In the past, baby walkers injured more children than any other product. These injuries included skull fractures, concussions, internal injuries, broken bones, cuts and bruises.
 - **Baby gates** – A must in households with crawlers and toddlers, these can entrap children or fail to keep them from falling down stairs. Baby gates made before 1985 were accordion style and had large openings.
- 7429B6-606B**
- **Clothing with strings** – Jackets and sweatshirts with strings, especially around the neck, can catch and strangle children. Remove all strings or cut them off clothing. Do not sell old clothes that have these strings.
 - **Beanbag chairs** – These playroom fixtures can suffocate or choke children if opened. Newer beanbag chairs cannot be unzipped and are safer than older styles.
 - **Hairdryers** – Dryers manufactured since 1990 have built in shock protection devices. Your hairdryer has one if it has a large rectangular or boxy plug and the mark of a recognized testing laboratory.
 - **Halogen torchere floor lamps** – This style of lamp can cause fires when combustibles, such as drapes, come too close to the bulbs. Forty million of these floor lamps made before 1997 with no wire guards have been recalled.

Source: Consumer Products Safety Commission. For help, call toll-free hotline 800-638-2722 or go to www.recalls.gov.



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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Budget Billing

McDonough Power members with at least 12 months of consumption history and with account balances paid in full are eligible for Budget Billing.

Under the plan, the monthly installment will remain the same for each billing. McDonough Power will use past consumption histories to calculate the average annual electricity costs based on the amount used at the current address. McDonough Power will divide that amount by 12 to compute the fixed monthly installment.

During the month of June, McDonough Power will re-evaluate budget accounts. This is known as the "catch up" month. At this time, McDonough Power will calculate the difference between the cost of the energy actually used during the year and the amount paid on Budget Billing. If the budget balance is behind, the member will be billed for the remaining balance. If the account is ahead and has a credit balance, that balance will carry forward until it is used.

Throughout the budget year, the cooperative will periodically review the account, and the monthly installment will be revised if necessary. **4216C5-500A**

Any disconnect, because of non-pay, will result in automatic removal from the budget plan. Account balances at the time of removal are automatically due with the current billing. Any credit balances will be applied towards current billing.

If a member is removed from Budget Billing because of non-payment, the member must re-establish his/her credit history with 12 consecutive on-time payments in order to return to Budget Billing.

Once a member signs on for the Budget Billing program, the plan shall remain in effect and be automatically renewed, unless terminated by either the member or the cooperative.

To sign up, please call (309) 833-2101 and ask for Debbie.

Tree Planting

(Continued from 16a)

Before beginning any outdoor excavating or landscaping project, call JULIE to identify and locate all possible utility hazards. Your local utility also can provide helpful planting information, or refer you to nursery and landscaping experts for assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate to plant near power lines.

"There are many beautiful varieties of low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade," says David J. Williams, Extension Specialist in Horticulture and Curator of the University of Illinois Arboretum. "These types of trees co-exist well with power lines and avoid the need for trimming for line clearance."

University Extension Services can provide additional horticultural information on trees, foliage and landscaping ideas for any type of yard or land. In Illinois, visit the Web site www.extension.uiuc.edu. Your state nursery and landscaping contractors associations also have listing of local landscaping experts. It also is recommended that city arborists be contacted regarding permissible planting in municipal right-of-ways. Web sites of organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.org and International Society of Arboriculture at www.isa-arbor.com, all have a wealth of material related to trees.

"Trees enhance the quality of life in our communities," Hall said. "This Arbor Day, the traditional tree planting holiday, we hope all people will consider the environmental and energy-saving benefits of trees and bushes, but as equally important, the need to select the right tree when planting near power lines."



Watts

NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative
Macomb, Illinois 61455

What is a Cooperative – for the Younger Generation

By Kelly Hamm

If you are of the younger generation you may not be aware of your advantage of being a cooperative member. So, as a member of the younger generation myself as well as an employee who is new to the cooperative world I would like to try and explain to you the value of being a member of a cooperative. I will explain what a cooperative is, the seven basic principles that guide a coop, why electric cooperatives were formed, the advantages of being a coop member, as well as your role as a coop member.

First off, what exactly is a cooperative you might ask? The definition from the National Cooperative Business Association states that a cooperative is a business and in many ways it's like any other business. A cooperative business belongs to the people who use it – people who have organized to provide themselves with goods or services they need. Members share equally in the control of their coop and net profits are returned to the members. Cooperatives not only provide your rural electric service but can also be organized to provide almost any imaginable product or service such as health care, insurance, housing, food, heating fuel, hardware, credit unions, childcare, as well as other utility services. **325B9-534C**

All cooperatives are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of the consumers. Those principles are as follows:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

If your grandparents grew up in a rural area they might be able to tell you how they remember when the lights first came on. Electric coops began to light the countryside in 1935 with the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order. Coops were needed because it was not economically feasible for existing power companies to build power lines in the sparsely populated areas of rural America. McDonough Power Cooperative was actually organized in 1938 with the first line being energized on August 15, 1939.

Your advantages as one of the cooperative's member-owners include that you not only get excellent service at the lowest possible cost, you also share in any cooperative margins. Your share of the cooperative's margins is called Capital Credits. At the end of each year these net margins are allocated and assigned to each member on the basis of the

Continued on 16b

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:
billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman
Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman
Steve Youngquist, Secretary
Stan Prox, Treasurer
Robert J. Dwyer
Steve Hall
Jeffrey Moore
Bill Pollock
Jerry Riggins
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

Continued from 16a

amount of energy used during the year. You will receive a notice from us each year telling you how much has been allocated to you. Capital Credits are refunded at the board's discretion when the financial condition of the cooperative allows. This is an advantage to you and differs from the philosophy of investor-owned utility companies who operate to make a profit for their shareholders.

Members of electrical cooperatives also express higher than average levels of customer satisfaction. As a cooperative, members come first because the members are the owners. Coops are locally owned and operated. When you call the coop you aren't talking to someone from a far away land that you can't understand, you are talking with your neighbors who actually care about your needs and concerns. **8320D6-650C**

You might be asking yourself by now, well since I am an owner of this cooperative then what is my role as a member? Your role as a member is to participate in annual meetings or any other special meetings to help make decisions about the cooperative. At the annual meeting each member gets one vote to determine by majority vote who will serve on the board of directors. McDonough Power's service territory is split up into nine districts with one board member representing each district. It is very important for you as a member-owner to help determine who serves on the board as their duties are to establish policies, make decisions about the operation of the cooperative, as well as engage in strategic planning for the cooperative's future.

All in all, being a member-owner of a cooperative is beneficial in many aspects. Not only does your vote count at the annual meeting but you also share in any cooperative margins. Hopefully at this point I have helped explain to you exactly what a cooperative is and to better value your relationship with McDonough Power Cooperative as well as any other cooperative that you may be a member of.

Training to be the Best

At your electric co-op, we're not satisfied until you're satisfied. That's why our employees have a passion for their jobs. We constantly train and provide them with all of the latest resources to get their job done, and to get it done safely and correctly the first time—every time. Our mission is to provide reliable electricity and peace of mind to all of our members. That's one way we're always looking out for you.



Sunny spring days beckon the child in us all to head out into the warm weather to play. As you resume your spring-time activities, Safe Electricity and McDonough Power recommends families review electrical safety rules with their children to encourage safe outdoor play. **112236B8-1052C**

“Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity and electrical equipment,” says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Director. “Point out overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize that they should never climb or play near them.”

McDonough Power recommends that children be taught to follow these rules:

1. Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
2. Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires and electrocute you. Contact McDonough Power Cooperative for assistance.
3. Never fly a kite on a cloudy day when a thunderstorm may be brewing.
4. Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
5. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
6. Never go into an electric substation for any reason – even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call McDonough Power instead.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.

Also, installing playground equipment and pools will require some amount of digging. Make sure to take precautions before you start your project. Call J.U.L.I.E. to have buried lines marked, so you can avoid serious injury and damage.

Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets. Never touch an electrical appliance while in a pool or hot tub. Also inform kids that it is never safe to swim in a pool or lake when a storm is brewing.

“Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix,” warns Hall. “Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from pools, ponds and wet surfaces.”

Never leave any electrical appliances outside. When you are done using a radio, CD player, or any other electrical gadget

Continued on 16d

National Safe Kids Week in May

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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Continued from 16c

outdoors, bring it inside with you. If it rains, the electrical device could get wet and cause an electrical shock when you unplug it later. If the weather looks threatening, pack up and go indoors.

“Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in, they can also leave electric hazards behind,” Hall adds. “Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.”

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult. Always assume that any power line is fully charged and is not turned off. Stay far away and call McDonough Power if you or your child encounters a downed power line.

“It’s a good idea to include utility emergency numbers with other posted emergency phone numbers, and instruct children how to call for help in an emergency,” advises Hall. **615D7-168C**

For more information on electrical safety, and on-line games and activities that teach kids to safely use and play around electricity, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Representative Rich Myers and Senator John Sullivan met with 14 students representing McDonough Telephone Cooperative and 8 students representing McDonough Power Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action, meet with Secretary of State Jesse White and tour the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The students are pictured with Sen. Sullivan.

Front row from left are McDonough Power Cooperative chaperone Kelly Hamm and students Meghan Taylor of Kirkwood, Melissa O’Neal of Monmouth, Brandon Sullivan of Macomb, Kelsey Drea of Macomb, Sen. Sullivan, Carmen Gentes of Good Hope, Lesli Kline of Bushnell, Stephanie Nelson of Good Hope, Travis Sayers of Industry, Logan Woods of Industry and chaperone Dawn Beck.

Back row from left are McDonough Telephone Cooperative chaperone Les Fowler and students Christina Bostrom of Dallas City, Kimberly Litchfield Nauvoo, Alyssa Swanson of LaHarpe, Bradley Buss of Media, Brian Dimmitt of Blandinsville, Zac Doscher of Colchester, Tyler Osborne of Bushnell, Mackenzie Ourth of Carthage, Chianne Hartman of Oquawka, Alyssa Almaguer of Monmouth, Abigail Edwards of Monmouth, Mary Hinman of Macomb and Alexis Fulkerson of Macomb.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.



Watts

NEW

McDonough Power Cooperative
Macomb, Illinois 61455

Nominating Committee Will Meet



Steve Epperson
Manager

Members of the 2007 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 20 at the Red Ox in Macomb at 6:30 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2007 annual meeting of members to be held August 16 at the Fellheimer Auditorium in Macomb. **7217A2-112B**

■ **District 1** – (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Robert Derry, 1007 W Grant, Macomb and Brent Lowderman, 255 China Road, Macomb.

■ **District 2** – (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County): Jane Nissen, 4170 E 1200th St., Macomb.

■ **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): Walter Lewis, 13005 E 150th St., Blandinsville and Sheridan Miller, 5210 N 900th Rd, Colchester.

■ **District 4** – (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett Townships in McDonough County): Keela Woolam, 6327 N 1700th Rd, Macomb.

■ **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): Leon Solomon, 9885 E 1600th St., Macomb.

■ **District 6** – (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City Townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): Harlan T. Baker, 13195 N 2300th Rd., Good Hope.

■ **District 7** – (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Jim Grant, 497 20th Ave, Roseville and Harold Anderson, 112 US Highway 67, Roseville.

■ **District 8** – (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): Frank Kane, 706 26th St., Roseville.

■ **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.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the Board of Directors may be made by (1) the Nominating Commit-

Continued on 16b

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

E-mail address:
billing@
mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman
Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman
Steve Youngquist, Secretary
Stan Prox, Treasurer
Robert J. Dwyer
Steve Hall
Jeffrey Moore
Bill Pollock
Jerry Riggins
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Continued from 16a

tee, (2) a 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.

The terms of directors from Districts 1, 3 and 7 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, Steve Hall; District 8, Robert Dwyer; and District 9, Steven Youngquist.

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than one hundred twenty 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 thirty 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 fifteen 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 thirty days before the meeting.

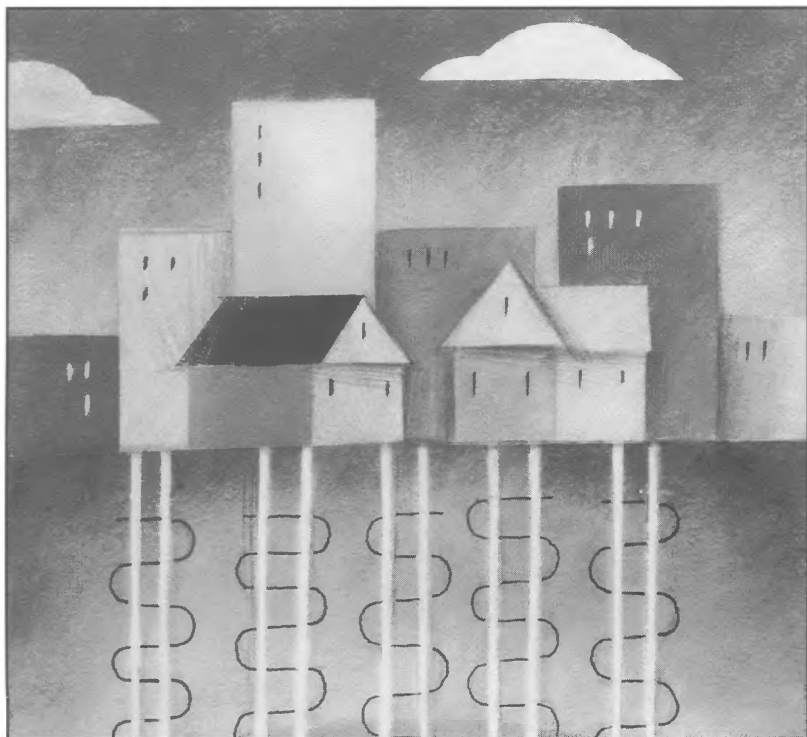
Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of members. **9324C3-350B**

Mark Your Calendars!



McDonough Power Cooperative's 2007 Annual Meeting will be held August 16th at Fellheimer Auditorium in Macomb. Registration to begin at 6 p.m. with business meeting at 7 p.m.

Geothermal & Air-To-Air Heat Pump System Incentives



Did you know that McDonough Power offers incentive rebates when you install a geothermal system or an air-to-air heat pump?

A geothermal system can be installed in either a new or existing home. The rebate we offer is \$125 per ton up to \$500. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for the geothermal rate. McDonough Power installs a 2nd meter on the geothermal system and all kilowatts registered through the 2nd meter are billed at 6 cents per kilowatt hour. **6434C9-270C**

On air-to-air heat pumps we offer a \$300 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

We also offer a special rate to those members who have an all-electric home.

For more information or questions on our geothermal and heat pump incentives contact your McDonough Power Member Services Representative, Kelly Hamm, at 309-833-2101.

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 our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

New Employees

McDonough Power is very pleased to have these two new employees join our co-operative family.



Mike Smith was hired as Engineering and Operations Manager in April. He and his wife, Tammy, and their four children, Zachary, Audrey, Blythe and Zane, are from Oklahoma where Mike previously worked at Northeast Rural Electric Cooperative.



Amy Warrington was hired as Customer Service Representative in April. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Roseville with their two sons, Brandon and Max. **71E19C9-114A**

POWERNET GLOBAL



4.5¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

4.9¢

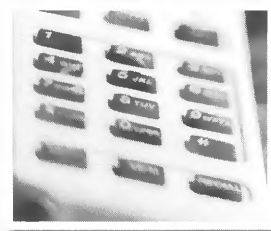
ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

**THIS OFFER IS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS -
you do not need to be a McDonough Power member!**

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

FREE to join
FREE calling cards
(12.9 cents per min. anytime –
no surcharge)
FREE 800 number

NO monthly fees
NO monthly premiums
NO term agreements
NO codes to dial
NO fly-by-night
operation – respected carrier
6 second increment billing



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 Cares

The employees of McDonough Power Cooperative have set up a fund (McDonough Power Cooperative Cares) to help those in need and spread good will. This winter we were able to provide approximately 50 winter coats to children in need throughout our entire service territory. We also

delivered Thanksgiving Day baskets to families in need. 4415C9-1200B

This past May, we didn't want to forget how important mothers are to families. We delivered Mother's Day baskets to eight grateful ladies at Wesley Village Healthcare Center who had no families to share this special day with. We also provided a large gift basket for BINGO day, so everyone could enjoy some special gifts.



Mark Your Calendars!



**McDonough Power Cooperative's
2007 Annual Meeting will be held
August 16 at Fellheimer Auditorium
in Macomb. Registration to begin at 6
p.m. with business meeting at 7 p.m.**



McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Jeffrey Moore

Bill Pollock

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Overloading During the Summer

Increased electrical use in hot summer weather also increases the risk of fires in homes with older or damaged wiring systems. Summertime necessities such as air conditioning and other home cooling demands can strain and overload a home's electrical system, creating a serious shock and fire hazard.

"Nationwide, an estimated 50 million older homes and buildings with outdated electrical wiring and systems are at greater risk of dangerous deterioration and becoming overloaded," says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Director.

The wiring of many homes is not equipped to properly handle and support the increased electrical demands of present-day homes and offices. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than half of all homes in the U.S. are at least 30 years old. The wiring in many of these older homes was designed to handle only about half of the electrical demands of today's homeowners. **12122A9-1059B**

"Overloaded electrical circuits, and faulty equipment and wiring can cause not only inconvenient power outages, but hazardous conditions that could result in injury, or even death," says Hall.

The NFPA attributes more than 40,000 fires, 325 deaths, 1,350 injuries and \$640 million in damages in home fires each year to faulty electrical distribution and wiring. This accounts for nearly one-third of the total average 111,400 residential electrical fires per year – the fourth leading cause of home fires. Those residential electrical fires cause an annual average of 860 deaths, 3,875 injuries and nearly \$1.3 billion in property damage.

Watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is

heard from outlets

If you have any of these present, you should have your home inspected by a professional.

"A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden hazards could prevent many of these tragedies," says Hall. "The time and investment in having a qualified electrician check your residence, and performing a few home repairs and upgrades are small in comparison to the protection and safety they provide to your family and home."

Safe Electricity recommends an electrical system inspection for all dwellings

40 years old or older and when purchasing a previously-owned home. Most mortgage companies require an electrical inspection on the purchase of a new home before a loan can be approved anyway. You should also have an inspection when you've had a major renovation or



if you've added major new appliances in the last 10 years, or have extensive cords or lots of power strips permanently in use.

"Avoid using extension cords on a continual basis," Hall recommends. "Use them only temporarily and make sure the cords are in good condition – not frayed, stretched or worn. Keep cords out of the path of foot traffic. If you do need to use an extension cord, use one that has a sufficient amp or wattage rating. Never use an extension cord for air conditioners, electric heaters or even fans."

"Remove and keep all electrical cords from behind baseboards and beneath carpets and furniture," stresses Hall. "This is a major fire hazard."

If electrical items to be plugged in are close together, such as with computer equipment, use a plug bar or surge protector. But make sure not to overload the electrical circuit, which can create a fire hazard.

For more information visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

Are You Smarter than a 4th Grader?

McDonough Power co-sponsors Live Line Demo at Farm Safety Day

Kelly Hamm

Member Relations & Marketing Specialist

Quite possibly the 4th graders of McDonough County are now more knowledgeable than you and I when it comes to farm safety. Approximately 325 4th grade students had the opportunity to attend Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day at the McDonough County 4H grounds on Friday, April 27. The event was put on by the West Central Illinois Chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK).

The day began at 9 a.m. and concluded at 2 p.m. Students attended sessions including Equipment & Grain Safety, Disability Awareness, Animal Safety, Handwashing, Chemical Safety, Meth Awareness, First Aid, Sun Safety, Water Safety, Seatbelt Safety, Rollover Demonstration, Lawn Equipment and ATV Safety, Electrical Safety, Tractor Safety, PTO (Power Take Off) Demonstration and Farm Safety Jeopardy. Each of the classes made a "dummy" out of straw and disposable coveralls to use in the PTO demonstration to show how quickly and severely someone could be

injured by a PTO. 5423C3-254B

McDonough Power's special part in the day was co-sponsoring the live line demonstration for the electrical safety session. Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo, Inc. traveled from Alvin to educate the students on the importance of learning to respect the power of electrical lines through his very dynamic, fun and educational program. Finley was able to pack a significant amount of electrical safety information into his two, 40-minute sessions. The message that Finley conveyed was that for most of us fallen power lines or bare wires are obvious danger signals but there are plenty of more subtle electrical threats that we need to avoid. He relayed his message by explaining some of those subtle electrical threats and demonstrating the effects that they could have on the person or persons involved. The most important advice that the students took home with them was SAFETY FIRST.

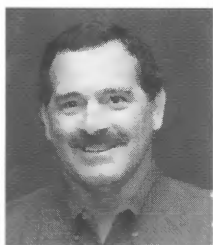
For Farm Safety 4 Just Kids membership information, contact the McDonough County Extension Office at 309-837-3939.



Get to Know Your Directors Up for Re-election

Mike Cox

Mike Cox currently serves as the representative to District 1, consisting of Chalmers and part of Scotland Townships in McDonough County. His family



has lived in the McDonough Power Cooperative service area for more than 30 years. Mike, along with his wife, Vicky, and youngest daughter, Caitlin, live south of Macomb. Their older children are married and have families of their own. Chad and his wife, Jeannine, and their two children live in the rural Plymouth area. Christina and her husband, Jerry, live in Apache Junction, Arizona.

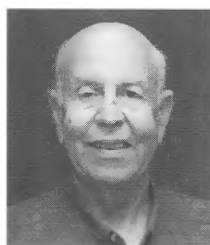
Mike has worked for Cox Construction for 35 years. His work is mostly in the electrical field and includes all kinds of work from homes to small industrial projects. Because of his experience in the electric industry and in running a business, he is able to bring a unique perspective to McDonough Power's Board of Directors.

Mike was elected to the board of directors in 1995. "This experience has been very rewarding to me," says Mike. "It has been very educational and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the consumers of McDonough Power Cooperative, as well as people in the program throughout the country working together to shape the direction of a changing industry. More importantly, it is an honor to be able to work with the fine men and women at McDonough Power Cooperative."

Mike currently serves as Chairman of the McDonough Power Cooperative Board. He is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church where he has taught a high school Sunday school class for 24 years. Mike also serves on the McDonough County 4-H Committee and 4-H Fair Beef Superintendent. He is a member of the YMCA and the Macomb Country Club and has helped with the Macomb to Peoria St. Jude fund raising event. He enjoys tending a small herd of cattle. When it's time to relax, Mike likes to spend time hunting and hiking in the great outdoors.

Bill Pollock

Bill Pollock represents members of McDonough Power Cooperative in District 3. He was elected to the McDonough Power Board of Directors in August 1978.



District 3 is composed of Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the west half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County.

Bill was born and raised on a farm in the Industry area. He lived in Industry Township, attended Industry schools and graduated from Industry High School. While growing up, Bill was very active in FFA, 4-H and was a member of the Ebenezer Methodist Church. He spent several summers at the local fairs helping his grandfather, George Pollock, and other family members with their racehorses.

Bill and his wife, Mary Jane (Aten), who is also from the Industry area, were married in April 1954. They moved to their current residence in Hancock Township, north of Tennessee, Ill., in 1969, where they farm and raise Haflinger Horses. Bill and Mary Jane have four married children and 11 grandchildren. Their sons, Scott, Bruce and Mike, live in the area with their families. Their daughter, Pam, lives in Winchester with her husband, Don Hubbert, and son, Bryan.

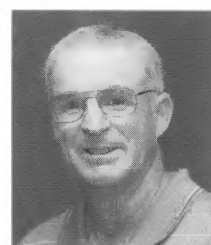
Bill really enjoys serving on the McDonough Power Board. He had the honor of serving as Board Chairman for five years. Bill is also the Alternate Director of the Soyland Board.

"I have had the opportunity to serve with a great group of directors both past and present. We have seen a lot of changes over the years and I believe we have a great and positive future in meeting the needs of our members. We have an outstanding group of employees and management that are dedicated to safety and good service to our members."

Bill and Mary Jane are very busy attending athletic events for their grandchildren. They also enjoy camping, traveling, trail rides and spending quality time with their families and good friends. **5310D2B-956B**

Steve Hall

Steve Hall represents members of McDonough Power Cooperative in District 7. He was elected to fill a vacancy on the McDonough Power Board of Directors in 2006.



District 7 is composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in McDonough County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County.

Steve Hall is a lifelong resident of Point Pleasant Township. His grandparents settled in the township about 100 years ago. He graduated from Roseville High School in 1970 and attended Black Hawk East Junior College. He and his wife, Nancy, were married in 1979 and they have one son, Brent. They all live in rural Roseville, where Steve currently farms 420 acres. He began working for the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2000 as a full-time temp. and works the winter months plowing snow.

Hall says, "The manager and staff are very helpful and nice to work with. I have learned a lot my first year and I have a lot more to learn."

In the past, Steve served on the Warren County Pork Producers' Board for 10 years and the Warren/Henderson County Farm Bureau Board for 6 years. He has served as a Swan Creek Volunteer Fire Fighter for the past 30 years. He has also been a Wyffels Hybrid Dealer for 23 years. He has been on the Roseville United Methodist Church Landscape Committee for the past 12 years and has served on the Church Board of Trustees for a year. He has also been on the Roseville FFA Alumni Board for 10 years. In his spare time Steve enjoys watching movies and going out to eat.

McDonough Power Cooperative Cares

This year, the board and employees of McDonough Power Cooperative set up a charitable account, "McDonough Power Cooperative Cares", to help those in need. This winter the cooperative was able to provide approximately 50 winter coats to children in need throughout their entire service territory. The cooperative also delivered Thanksgiving Day baskets to families in need.

This past June, the board and employees didn't want to forget how important Fathers are to families. The cooperative delivered Father's Day baskets to four grateful men at Wesley Village Healthcare Center who had no families to share this special day with.



Annual Meeting August 16!

Registration – 6:00 p.m.

Entertainment by the On-Stage Band – 6:15 p.m.

Business Session – 7:00 p.m.

Two Grand Prizes

Up to \$100 per month credit for six months toward one grand prize winner's electric bill.

Phoenix Stainless Steel Gas Grill

Each member will receive \$5 off their September energy bill for attending the meeting.

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Jeffrey Moore

Bill Pollock

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Your Body is Telling You to Cool It

To keep cool during the summer, pay attention to your body's signals. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), if you ignore symptoms that warn you to cool down, heat cramps can lead to heat exhaustion or deadly heatstroke.

People most at risk are babies and children, elderly and obese people, and those taking certain medications. None of us are immune, however.

According to the NIH, heat illness shows itself innocently enough. If you experience profuse sweating, fatigue, thirst and muscle cramps, rest in a cool place, drink fluids and massage your muscles until they relax. If you ignore the symptoms, they will be followed by signs of heat exhaustion: headache, dizziness and light-headedness, weakness, nausea and vomiting and dark urine. Finally, if left untreated, full-blown heatstroke can develop. Symptoms of heatstroke are fever (temperature above 104°F), irrational behavior, extreme confusion, hot and dry skin, rapid and shallow breathing, seizures and unconsciousness.

How to help with heat illness

If you observe someone suffering from the symptoms of heat illness, the NIH advises:

- Have the person lie down in a cool place, with feet elevated about 12 inches. **12120D6-1058B**
- Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to a person's skin, especially the neck, armpits and groin. Use a fan to lower body temperature.
- If alert, give the person beverages to sip, or make a salted drink by adding a teaspoon of salt to a quart of water. Administer a half-cup every 15 minutes. Cool water will do if salt isn't available.
- If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or

loses consciousness, call 911 and follow the operator's instructions.

Stay Cool and Hydrated

Prevention is the best cure. Wear light-colored, breathable clothing. This works for everybody from babies to grandparents. Avoid using creams or ointments – except sunscreen – on babies because they block pores, encouraging heat rash. Kids need to drink eight ounces of fluid every 20 minutes when they're playing in the sun, so scheduled breaks are helpful.

Adults should drink more fluids on hot, humid days, too. As the temperature rises, consume additional water if you're sweating. During exercise, consume an extra one or two cups of water. Some adults need two to three cups an hour or more if they

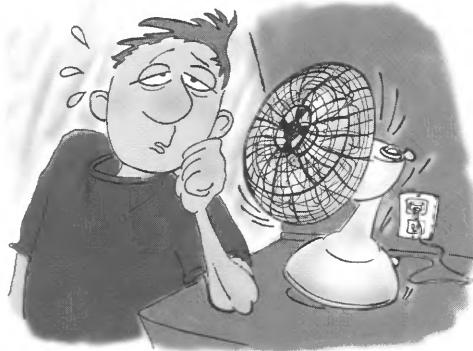
are sweating heavily or exercising longer, according to the Mayo Clinic.

And don't forget that your risk increases if you consume alcohol. Caffeinated drinks also dehydrate.

Women who are pregnant or nursing should increase their fluid intake more than most adults, according to the medical experts. Pregnant women are advised to drink 10 cups of water a day in a temperate environment, and nursing moms need to consume 12.5 cups of water per day. Pregnant women should keep their body temperatures below 101°F, to keep their fetuses safe.

The best solution is to stay in an air-conditioned place during hot humid days. Keep in mind that when temperatures reach the 90s, electric fans alone won't prevent heat illnesses.

To find help paying electric bills to run an air conditioner, call the National Energy Assistance Referral project toll-free at 1-866-674-6327, visit www.energynear.org or e-mail energyassistance@ncat.org and include your city, county and state in your message.



Youth to Washington

Carmen Gentes of Good Hope and Melissa O'Neal of Monmouth represented McDonough Power Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 8-15. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Senator Dick Durbin and were among 57 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, George Washington's estate at Mt. Vernon and a number of other historical sites. **8215C7-852A**

From left are Gentes, O'Neal and Youth Tour Director John Freitag.



8 Ways to Keep Dorm Rooms Safe

College students will soon pack into dorms and apartments with study lamps, laptops, TVs, stereos, grooming and other electrical devices. Before unloading and plugging in electronics, make sure your student is educated on safe appliance use and precautions against electrical hazards.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that nearly 1,600 fires occur in campus housing each year. Safe Electricity and McDonough Power urge students and parents to review these safety tips to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing:



- Purchase and use only UL-rated electrical appliances and power cords. **63236D8A-702B**
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Never use extension cords on a continuous basis; they serve temporary solutions only.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are GFCI equipped before use.
- Unplug small household appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

For more information visit the SafeElectricity.org Web site.

McDonough County Rural Water



Rural water is coming to the bottom tier of townships in McDonough County. The West Prairie Water Co-op is taking applications for rural water. There will be more meetings to explain the process and offer sign-ups. Ask your township supervisor or contact the West Prairie Water Co-op at PO Box 243, Colchester, IL 62326.

Nominating Committee Report

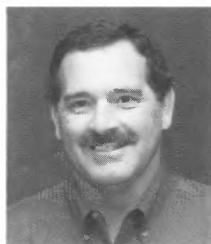
Pursuant to the bylaws, the members of the nominating committee met at the Red Ox in Macomb, Ill. on June 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. to nominate candidates for election as directors at the McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 16, 2007.

The following members were present:

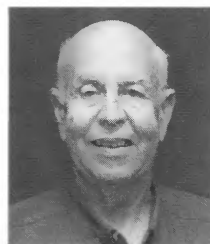
Leon Solomon
Robert E. Derry
Frank J. Kane
Keela Woolam
Brent L. Lowderman
Lauren Still
Harold Anderson
Walter Lewis
Jim Grant
Sheridan Miller
Jane E. Nissen

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

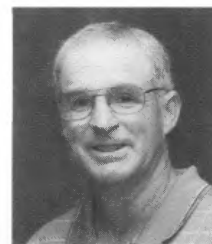
District #1
Michael Cox



District #3
William Pollock



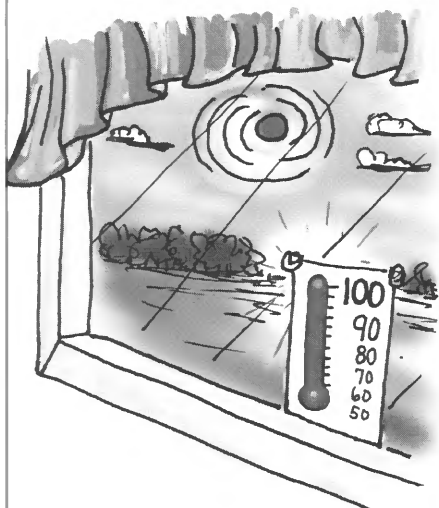
District #7
Steve Hall



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.

Leon Solomon, Chairman
Dated: June 20, 2007

Peak Alert Season



McDonough Power Cooperative asks you to remember "PEAK 90." When the temperature is predicted to be 90 degrees or above, June 1 – September 15, the cooperative would like to have their members cooperate by using major appliances or equipment before 12:00 noon or after 10:00 p.m.

McDonough Power Cooperative's

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This is Your Co-op

Did you know you are a member and owner of an electric utility? No. Well, as a co-op member you are part owner of McDonough Power Cooperative. Your cooperative has 17 employees, 1,395 miles of power lines with poles, transformers, substations and meters.

You elect other members to represent your interests on the board of directors. Does this mean your electric rates will be lower than other utilities charge? Maybe. Maybe not. But one thing you can be sure of – your co-op's rates do not include a profit for investors. Any money left over after paying expenses is your money. **4320A5-550B**

These margins are allocated to what is called a capital credit account. This money is held until the board of directors you elected determines it is financially prudent to return the money to its members.

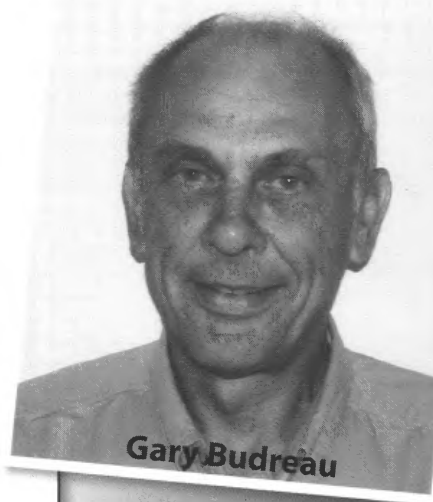
A Great McDonough Power Employee

Dear Mr. Epperson,

Today your journeyman lineman Gary Budreau was at my house to replace a security light and shut off the power for some electrical work I was having done. The yard being a little soft from the recent rains, Mr. Budreau was very concerned about driving on the yard in order to reach the security light. Even though I assured him it would be fine, he got out of the truck two or three times to check and make sure he wasn't making ruts in the yard. I am very particular about how my yard looks so I appreciated his concern and willingness to wait a few days if I wanted him to.

Any McDonough Power employee I've ever dealt with has been courteous and friendly. Please pass on my thanks to Mr. Budreau. If McDonough Power gives out "Atta Boys" he deserves one.

Thank you,
Jane Nissen



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

We want to thank the members who attended our annual meeting on August 16. Watch for the October issue of the *Illinois Country Living* for highlights. 7120D8-114A

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Jeffrey Moore

Bill Pollock

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Keep Fido Safe From Electricity Safety checklist for pet owners



A frisky dog or curious cat can cause an electrical hazard or fire in ways you may not have thought about. Safe Electricity and McDonough Power Cooperative offers this safety checklist:

- Keep electrical cords away from animals so they don't chew on them and receive a severe shock. If you have difficulty getting your pet to stop chewing on the cord, you can paint it with a bitter tasting polish or wrap the cord in a thick plastic sleeve.
- Make sure nightlights and appliances are completely plugged into wall outlets. Partially exposed prongs are a hazard for curious animals.
- Keep halogen lamps away from play areas for pets and children. Some halogen bulbs can reach very high temperatures, and if knocked over during play, could easily start a fire. **3312C5-540A**
- Keep appliances near sinks and bathtubs a safe distance away from the water source. Playful pets can knock radios, curling irons and other items into the water, creating a dangerous situation.
- Discourage pets from curling up for a nap behind warm computer equipment.

For more electrical safety information visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Peak Alert Season

McDonough Power Cooperative asks you to remember "PEAK 90." When the temperature is predicted to be 90 or above, June 1 – September 15, the cooperative would like to have their members cooperate by using major appliances or equipment before Noon or after 10 p.m.

Harvest Safety

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 16 – 22



The rush to harvest can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock and burn injuries. Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in farm electrical accidents each year. Safe Electricity and McDonough Power Cooperative urge farm workers to avoid tragic accidents by taking note of farm activities that take place around power lines.

“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. **12127B5A-1059B**

Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path for electricity. Tractors with front-end loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, and equipment with antennas can easily become electrical hazards and must be operated with care.

“Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them – below, to the side and above power lines,” says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. “Ensuring proper clearance can save lives.”

“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 and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

If you must leave the vehicle due to fire danger, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

For more information on farm and other electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Here are some safety considerations for farm workers:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Always use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay may also conduct electricity under certain conditions.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Apply decals to all equipment that may pose electrical hazards and explain decals to workers who use the equipment.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass. **918B1-458C**
- If you have a standby power system, review its location, operation and importance with all workers.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

**Safe
Electricity®**

POWERNET GLOBAL

4.5¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

4.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

**THIS OFFER IS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS -
you do not need to be a McDonough Power member!**

That's 24 hours per day - 7 days a week!

Other Great Things About PowerNet Global Are:

FREE to join

FREE calling cards

(12.9 cents per min. anytime -
no surcharge)

FREE 800 number

Same rate as standard calls

NO monthly fees

NO monthly premiums

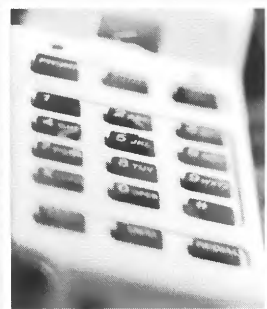
NO term agreements

NO codes to dial

NO fly-by-night

operation - respected carrier

6 second increment billing



For additional information or to sign up over the phone, call: (888) 414-4116.

Tell them you want to sign up with Power Net Global through McDonough Power.

Or you can 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: _____

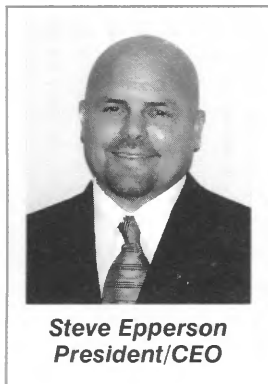
Your Telephone Numbers: (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Services Desired: _____ Outbound _____ 800 _____ Travel 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 _____

Changes in Wholesale Power Supply Will Impact Member Rates



Steve Epperson
President/CEO

Wouldn't it be great if you could receive electricity from an organization that purchased power, delivered it, demanded a high standard of service, and charged you only what it cost them to provide it; no profit, no dividends to pay, no shareholders expecting a high return? Better yet, what if that organization had no outside influence, it was locally owned, locally controlled, employed local people, and focused exclusively on serving the needs of those local people.

Well, that would be great. It is great! It's our cooperative. We are blessed to participate in such an organization. For this reason, we must do all we can to protect it and utilize its unique structure to address challenges that face our industry and will impact our members.

The challenges I speak of involve our wholesale power supply. Simply put, it is where McDonough Power Cooperative goes to purchase electricity so that it can distribute it to you, our members. We don't produce it, we simply procure it from those who do and distribute it to you. It is this source of energy (where it is produced) that is likely to see a great deal of change in the next few years. Why? There are several reasons.

One, is simply the rapidly increasing cost of fuel – we've all seen it. As the price of fuel increases, so does the cost of producing electricity. Again, we go out to purchase it so that we can distribute it to you. **12129D5-1058B**

Another significant reason wholesale power supply will change is the environmental concerns related to coal fire power plants. Several groups have identified emissions from coal fire power plants as a contributor to greenhouse gases and global warming. The most affordable and popular method of producing electricity is by utilizing coal

fire generation. As more requirements and restrictions are given to these power plants, costs will increase. As a result, it becomes more and more difficult for your cooperative to find affordable electricity to purchase on your behalf.

I must say before I go on, we support being environmentally responsible, we simply desire a reasonable transition from how power is produced today to how power can potentially be produced in the future. This takes time. Currently, there are few viable (meaning affordable) alternatives to coal fire power plants – which brings me to the next reason for why wholesale power will increase.

The reason there are few viable alternatives to coal fire power plants is because coal generation is so affordable. The utilization of other technologies and other sources of energy are expensive in comparison. That is a primary reason why they are not being used. However, there are large and influential lobbying groups backed by some deep pockets in corporate America, from company's whose names you would recognize, who have partnered with some environmental groups with the agenda of raising electricity rates as high as possible.

You may ask why, for the environmental groups, they hope that with higher electric rates will come less consumption – if it hurts too much to use it, you will stop or cut down. For some in corporate America, the higher your electric bill gets the more viable their alternative technologies become – if the reason you don't buy their products now is because electricity, the traditional way, is too affordable, when it becomes too expensive you will change your mind.

■ Continued on 16d

McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

McDonough Power and Spoon River Electric Cooperatives Join Forces



DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Jeffrey Moore

Bill Pollock

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative
The power of human connections



The stability and reliability of electric distribution systems are heavily dependent on a strong vegetation management program. Vegetation management is critical to prevent outages due to high winds, storms, ice and to keep crews and members safe during those outages.

McDonough Power Cooperative and Spoon River Electric Cooperative in Canton, Illinois have formed a forestry project to manage both McDonough Power and Spoon River's electrical systems. **331B8-540A**

"This is a fine example of co-ops working together to build the best program when neither co-op could afford the labor or technology on their own," says Spoon River CEO Bill Dodds.

McDonough Power CEO Steve Epperson adds, "This is a seamless fit, an ideal situation for us to provide excellent line maintenance in order to improve reliability."

This new forestry project is a cost-sharing, not-for-profit venture to implement new technology and better manage both systems, and benefit members at both cooperatives.

The cooperatives were able to keep the work in-house within the cooperative family, as opposed to contracting

out to another company.

"By utilizing resources from sister cooperatives, you get that member sensitivity and outstanding production you desire. Historically, contractors have not provided that," says Epperson, "With this alliance we don't have to supervise a contractor; we just get to see results."

As part of the project, the implementation of a Geographical Information System, or GIS, will take place. The added benefit of GIS is that it allows the management and crew to describe and document the work on a map, as well as forecast what needs to be done.

"GIS is a great planning tool," says Josh DeWees, Spoon River Forestry Manager, "It helps us set up a systematic method for clearing, trimming and spraying."

The crew is currently renting two state-of-the-art mowing machines, a Rayco and Fecon, for a 30-day trial period. After the 30 days the crew and management will decide which machine to purchase. In addition to the mowing machine, upgrades in other equipment, such as supply trucks and a bucket truck, are in place.

Dodds adds, "This project really demonstrates the cooperative spirit."

McDonough Power Annual Meeting

Members of McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb, celebrated 70 years, learned about rising power costs and re-elected three area men to three-year terms on the co-op's board of directors at the organization's annual meeting Thursday, Aug. 16, in Macomb. Michael Cox of Macomb, Bill Pollock of Blandinsville and Steve Hall of Roseville were re-elected. 651D6-275A

President and CEO Steve Epperson reported on the challenges facing the cooperative in regards to their wholesale power supply. "We don't produce electricity, we buy it from those who do and distribute it to you. This energy source is likely to see a great deal of change in the next few years," Epperson said. He went on to say that because of the increasing cost of fuel, the cost of producing electricity has also gone up. And in addition, there are environmental concerns related to coal-fired power plants. Emissions from coal-fired power plants have been identified as a contributor to greenhouse gases and global warming.

"As a result, it is becoming difficult for your cooperative to find affordable electricity to purchase on your behalf. We are monitoring the volatile environment that our industry exists in and are doing all we can to protect your interests as they relate to this issue," Epperson said. "I will be honest, we will see rate adjustments in the future for the reasons I have mentioned. We don't like it, however, it is our intent to adjust rates in small amounts over time. This will allow all of us to prepare and plan," Epperson said.

Epperson closed by saying, "Together, with many other rural electric cooperatives, through a new cooperative called Prairie Power Inc., we plan to aggregate our buying power and structure the best deal possible for power supply. This will help. And together our local member-owners, local employees, locally-governed cooperative will focus exclusively on overcoming these challenges and doing what will best serve the needs of our members."

■ *Continued on 16d*



■ *Annual Meeting continued from 16c*

Board Chairman Michael Cox told members that the cooperative has faced a number of challenges and seen great changes in the 70 years it has served members. "These changes have altered the way we operate in the office and in the field," Cox said. "However, one thing has not changed, and that is our focus, which is you, the member."

Cox then told members the accomplishments of the cooperative during the past year. Among them were installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System and implementing a disaster recovery plan to help improve reliability to members and make outage recoveries as quick as possible.

He said the co-op divested itself of MPC Energy. "This business simply no longer fit with McDonough Power's strategic objectives. The energy and resources utilized to operate it are now being directed to have a greater impact on our membership," Cox said.

The cooperative also started its McDonough Power Cooperative Cares Fund, and was able to distribute 49 coats to underprivileged area school children in need and distribute 23 food baskets to families needing assistance during Thanksgiving.



Pictured (l-r) are McDonough Power Cooperative's President/CEO Steve Epperson with re-elected directors Bill Pollock of Blandinsville, Mike Cox of Macomb and Steve Hall of Roseville.

■ *Member Rates continued from 16a*

You may recall the energy crisis in the 70s, many of the same concerns apply, but add to that some strategies used by some environmentalist groups as well as corporate opportunist aggressively piling on, and you can begin to see why we are concerned about the price of wholesale power and its effect on our members' rates. Remember, McDonough Power does not produce electricity it purchases it a number of different ways for its members and distributes it to them. We have control over distribution costs, but the price of power is to a large extent out of our control. **9435D1-656A**

It is not my desire to alarm you but simply inform you of what we face as a cooperative. Again, we are blessed because our unique organizing principle as a cooperative has nothing to do with profit or dividends but everything to do with the best possible service at the lowest possible price. As you know, the co-op only charges the member what it costs to purchase and distribute electricity, anything collected in addition to that is returned to the members. There is no motivation to do otherwise.

Please know that we are monitoring the volatile environment that our industry exists in and are doing all we can

to protect your interests. I must be honest, we will see rate adjustments in the future for the reasons I've mentioned. We don't like it! However, it is our intent to be proactive and good stewards of your resources – we will attempt to adjust rates in small amounts incrementally over time. This will allow all of us to prepare and plan for the inevitable increases we will face together.

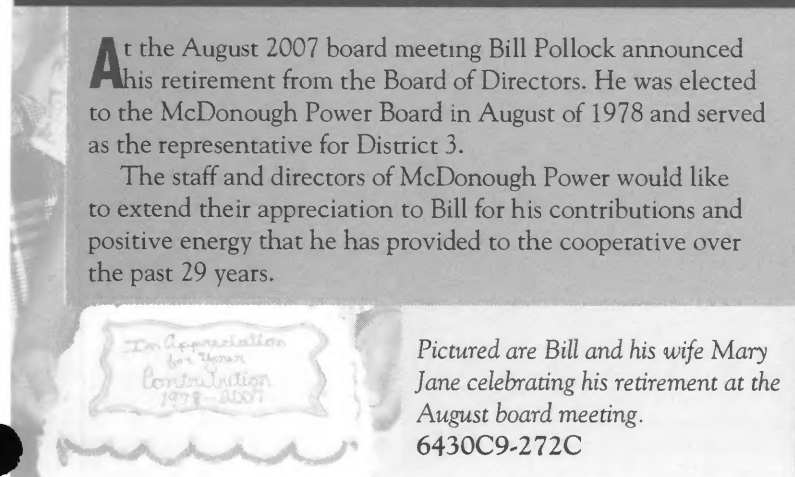
"Together" brings me to a final thought. It is where I think we can find the greatest consolation in this tough-to-swallow news. Together, with many other rural electric cooperatives through a new cooperative called Prairie Power Inc., we plan to aggregate our buying power and structure the best deal possible for power supply. This will help.

And together, as we have done for 70 years, our local member-owners, local employees, locally governed cooperative will focus on overcoming these challenges and doing what will best serve the needs of our members. We are in this together, we plan to make progress on this issue and we will keep you informed as we do. Thank you.

Bill Pollock Resigns

At the August 2007 board meeting Bill Pollock announced his retirement from the Board of Directors. He was elected to the McDonough Power Board in August of 1978 and served as the representative for District 3.

The staff and directors of McDonough Power would like to extend their appreciation to Bill for his contributions and positive energy that he has provided to the cooperative over the past 29 years.



Pictured are Bill and his wife Mary Jane celebrating his retirement at the August board meeting.
6430C9-272C

Walter Lewis Joins McDonough Power Board

Please help us welcome Walter Lewis to the McDonough Power Cooperative family as a Director serving District 3. Walter has been appointed to replace Bill Pollock, who announced his retirement from the board at the August 2007 board meeting.

Walter grew up west of Tennessee where the new 336 overpass is being built over the railroad tracks. He attended Colchester schools and graduated high school in 1977, then attended Western Illinois University for two years. He began farming in 1979 and married his wife, Gayla, in 1985.

Gayla grew up in Hamilton, Ill. and graduated from the University of Iowa. She now teaches at West Prairie Grade School South. They have two sons who attend West Prairie high school: Clay-



ton (Ross), who is a senior, and Philip, who is a junior. 4122A6-1150B

Walter served on the Industry Mutual Board until it merged in 2006 and he also served on the Red Cross Board in the 1990s. He has been a co-leader of the Blandinsville Blue Ribbons for seven years. Walter currently serves as a trustee on the Hite Township Board. He is also treasurer and caretaker of the Friendship Cemetery. He was a member of the Friendship United Methodist Church until it closed last December. His family now attends the Blandinsville United Methodist Church.

Walter and his family live four miles north and two miles west of Tennessee. His sons are the fifth generation to live in the house that was built by his great-grandfather in 1907. Walter has farmed with his brother, Charles, between Tennessee and Blandinsville for 28 years.



McDonough Power Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

Jeffrey Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



How Can I Prepare for Upcoming Rate Adjustments? Save Money – All Year Long!

The upcoming winter months are right around the corner!

There are a number of ways you can reduce your energy bill in the coming months. While McDonough Power Cooperative is working hard to minimize the effects a price increase will have on you, here are some easy ways for you to take advantage of some extra savings right away.

Perform an energy audit. Visit the following Touchstone Energy Web site to perform your own energy audit online. You'll be sure to find ways you may be able to save money! <https://touchstoneenergy.cooperative.com/public/programs/energyefficiency/lblfiles/launch.htm>

Implement energy efficiency improvements and activities in your home. Often, relatively simple things like putting plastic over your windows in the winter, purchasing a certain furnace (if you're in the market for a new one), and turning the thermostat down a notch or two, can add up to big savings. We're happy to share some of these cost-saving ideas with you. 911C1-460A

Switch to budget billing and/or automatic payment options. When the bitter winds of winter are blowing and are causing heating bills to rise, spread

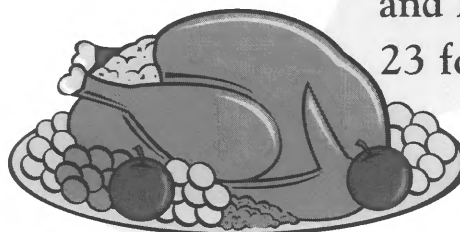


those cost out over several months with our budget-billing program. Budget billing can be a helpful way for you to effectively plan and balance your energy spending. And, you can also have your energy payments automatically withdrawn each month from an account you designate or from your Visa or MasterCard. This not only can save you money, but also time each month! Visit us online at www.mcdonoughpower.com and click on the Services tab for more information and printable forms.

These are just a few ways you can save money. If you have any questions or concerns we encourage you to call our office at 309-833-2101.

Office Closing

We will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving.



Help Us Find Owners of Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

In August 2007 we sent \$238,000 in checks to current and previous members for capital credit refunds. To date, we still have several checks that remain unclaimed as they have been returned by the postal service. 7415B4-606B

The checks represent a portion of the capital credits accumulated while members were living on the cooperative's

lines during the years 1977 and 2006.

We need your assistance in locating people who once lived within our service territory. If you are in contact with someone on the list or have any information pertaining to these people or their heirs, please contact us at 309-833-2101.

Abatte, Fione
Abingdon Rock Company
Adkins, Eric C.
Adkisson, Richard
Agans, Doris C.
Akerele, Richard
Albright Jr., John
Alden, John R.
Alexander, Susan J.
Allaman Excavating Inc.
Allen, Bayne
Allen, Ed (Mrs.)
Allgeyer, Brian
Allison, Brenda
Allison, Mary E.
Alton, Glen
Alumbaugh, Lyle R.
Amado, Kathy
Ames, Bonnie
Anderson, Eldon
Anderson, Peter G.
Anderson, Phillip
Apha Omicron Pi Sorority
Appel, Gregg M.
Aprati, Jeff
Arco Pipe Line Co.
Armstrong, John R.
Arnold, James M.
Artaega, Angelica
Ashby, Keith
Asthon, Harold
Atherton, Ruth
Attar, Talha
Ault, Ralph
Ausbury, Robert
Babcock, William
Bader, B.B.
Bagley, Evelyn R.
Bagley, R. E.
Baker, Marcia
Baker, Ron
Baker, Ronald
Bambrick, John F.
Bancroft, Don
Barber, Gary G.
Barnes, Donald W.
Barney, Carole L.
Barns, Savila
Barranco, Jane
Barrass, Edward
Barron, Louis A.
Bartlett Sr., Robert
Bates, Gary R.
Baumgardner, Golda
Baumgardner, L. H.
Baumgardner, Larry
Bayne, Cathy
Beam, Jesse
Beaupre, John
Becker, Steven E.
Beckwith, Margaret

Bedwell, Larry
Behymer, Edward R.
Bell, John W.
Bennett, Charles B.
Bennett, Dwight
Bergstedt, Russell E.
Bernard, Mark
Berry, Mary
Bishop Jr., Jack
Black, William J.
Blaszko, Nancy J.
Blimling, Gregory
Bodenhamer, Maxine
Bohanan, Linda
Booth, Jerry P.
Booth, Vivian L.
Booths, Dennis W.
Bower, David
Braatz, Charles
Bradford, Eleanor
Bradford, Ruth A.
Bradford, Ruth L.
Bradley, Cheryl
Braun, Ross
Brennan, Anne
Bricker, Lyle
Bridges, John
Britt, Brian
Brock, Cecil
Broida, John P.
Brooks, Glenn
Brooks, Jim
Brown, Chris
Brown, Craig
Brown, Glenn
Brown, Lois
Brown, Reggie
Brown, Verlyn W.
Brubaker, Gwen
Bryan, Benton L.
Bubb, Vernon
Bunch, Ervin
Burns, John R.
Burns, Richard
Burns, Scott
Burrell, William
Bushman, Janet
Bushnell, Alberta
Bussone, Paul M.
Butcher, Ervin
Butler, Lowell
Byrne, David A.
Caldwell, Merle
Cali, Carmen
Callahan Jr., William
Campbell, Bob
Campbell, Stan R.
Carlson, Carl L.
Carter, Steve
Casteel, John
Cavett, Richard
Caylor, Alleen
Chance, Carl
Chockley, Sharon

Christy, Anna Beth
Clark, James T.
Clark, Patricia
Clark, Ruth
Cloyd Estate, Oliver
CNB Agent for Stofft
Coad, Tyger
Cochrane, Michael
Cofield, Gregory R.
Colantino, Stephen
Combites, Joe
Comella, Frank
Conescu, Mary L.
Coney, William
Conlee, Wayne
Connell, Larry
Conway, James H.
Cook, Charlotte
Cook, David A.
Coplan, Mike
Corder, William
Cordone, John D.
Cornwell, Larry
Cottingham, Randy
Coughlin, Edward
Coulter, Hollis
Cousins, Ronald
Crabill, John R.
Craft, Perry
Craig, Kenneth
Crawford, Donna
Crawford, Robert
Creasy, Richard
Creasy, Robert E.
Creasy, Terry
Credille, Thomas P.
Crenshaw, Neville
Crone, Linda
Crowe, Toni M.
Crowley, Susan
Cummings, Lyndell
Cunningham, Chester
Curless, Ronald
Curtis, Terry T.
Czach, Marie
Dabrowski, Anne M.
Danner, Judi K.
Danner, Wayne H.
Dark, Jimmy E.
Davis, Carl
Davis, Frances M.
Davis, Gayla
Dawdy, Delwyn
Degler, Rick
Delfs, Beki
Dennis, Daniel D.
Dennis, Wayne
DePoy, Darold
DeWitt, Gerald
Dillard, Elsie
Dillingier, Russell
Dilworth, Eldon R.
Dilworth, J. R.
Dochterman, Rebecca

Dodd, Lelah
Doll Jr. Harvey
Dorethy, Ed
Doud, Fred
Douglas, Gene
Dowdall, Stephen
Downin, William
Drake, Mark
Draper, Thomas
Druffel, David
Duncan, Christy
Duncan, Naurice
Duncan, Ruby
Dunham, Grant
Dunn, James
Dunne, Dermot
Dwyer, Donald
Dye, John
Easley, Earl
Easley, James
Ebey, Kevin
Eckert, Robert
Eckles, Janet
Eddington, Martha M.
Eddington, Mary
Edgar, Earl
Edwards, Charles
Egert, Keith
Eggers, Lloyd
Ek Jr., James
El-Awady, Abbas A.
Emory, Francis
Engelkes, Ron
English, Kirby
Estes, Sarah
Evans, Helen
Evans, Michael
Ewing, Mary B.
Fanella, Karen
Farkas, Harold
Fawcett, Linda L.
Faxon, Tracy
Featherlin, Ronald
Felt, John
Fentem, Glen
Ferguson, Steve
Finn, Gerald
Fioretta, Susan
First Federal Savings
Fischer, Martin
Fish, Cathy Ann
Fisher, Deryl
Flanagan, Leo
Flanagan, Monica
Flod, Les
Flynn, James
Fogarty, Ruth
Ford, Robert
Fordyck, Paul
Foshay, Cheryl
Fowler, David
Fowler, Larry
Fowler, Ruth
Fox, Wayne

Foxall, Larry
Franck, Rebecca
Frederking, Elmer
Freed, Wendell
Frey, Carl
Frier, Kerry
Friesner, Judy
Fugate, Donald
Fulkerson, Girdie
Fuller, Robert
Funk, Brian
Gallaher, Dale
Gallehue, Dale
Games, Keith
Gandhi, S K
Gardner, Gerald
Games, Joseph
Garnon, Barry
Geer, Kenneth
George, Meredith
Gerald, Richard
Gile, Billie
Gile, Floyd
Gillenwater, Mary
Gillette, Daniel
Gillette, Michael
Godfrey, David
Gordon, R D
Gossage, Danny
Gossage, Keith
Graham, Addra
Graham, L.R.
Gray, Ed
Gray, Mia & Michael
Gray, Roy
Greenplate, Marvin
Greenstreet, Steve
Greenway Mobile Office
Grigsby, Dorothy
Grossnickle, Dane
Gustafson, Bernadine
Gustafson, Fred
Haar, Ralph
Haffner, Vada
Haffner, Verle
Hagan, Alfred
Hagan, Sheila
Hale, Michael
Hall, Lloyd
Hall, Patricia
Hamilton, Kenneth
Hamilton, Robert
Hammond Farm
Hample, Judy
Haney, Frank
Hanley, Larence
Hanlin, Larry
Hanlon, Arlene
Hanna, Robert
Harding, Daniel
Harlin, Gerald
Harrell, D.K.
Hart, Gerald
Hartman, Norman

Hartmann, Ina
Haut, Randall
Hay, Verna
Hazelbaker, Alvin
Head, Bill
Heath, William
Heaton, Charles
Heaton, Edward
Heffner, Mabel
Heikes, James
Helander, Harold
Helle, Glen
Helms, Bernard
Hendrickson, Alan
Henning, Bill
Henry, Peter
Herath, Bob
Herren, Roger
Herrod, Francis
Hess, Scott
Hickerson, Dean
Hicks, Lonnie
Hicks, Michael
Hielt, Kenneth
Hill, Leonard
Hill, Norman
Hill, R.G.
Hillm Stewart
Hillyer, Leslie
Hobart, Mac J.
Hoehle, Kathy
Holland, Golden
Holley, Roger
Hopper, Leigh Ann
Hopping, Velma
Horine, Robert
Hudson, Cindy
Hughes, Patricia
Hunter, James F.
Hussein, Wedad
Hynek, Mary
Hyson, Daniel
Immel, Janet
Ingram, James
Ingram, Jesse E.
Isenberg, Carrel
Jackson, Ernest
Jackson, Larry
Jacobs, Bernice
Jacobs, William
James, Darya
Jarrell, James
Jennings, Wayne
Johanson, Steven
John, Randall C.
Johnson, Ada A.
Johnson, David
Johnson, David L.
Johnson, Eugene
Johnson, Gary
Johnson, Gene
Johnson, Harold
Johnson, Kenneth
Johnson, Larry

Johnson, Lyle D.
 Johnson, Marion
 Johnson, Randy
 Johnson, Richard
 Jones Jr, Erwin
 Jones, Allene
 Jones, Gene
 Jones, Jennifer
 Jones, Richard
 Jones, Terry
 Jorgensen, Alan
 Jurgens, Alberta
 Kane, Stephen
 Karras, John
 Kauzlarich, Louise
 Keener, Kenneth
 Keim, V. I.
 Kelley, Tara
 Kellum, Vera
 Kempfer, Stephen
 Kennedy, Claude
 Kenney, Lawrence
 Kentner, David
 Kessler, Betty
 Kidder, Max
 Kiesow, James
 Kilday, Tim
 Kimler, Clyde L.
 King, Martha
 King, Rick
 King, Stephen B.
 Kingsbury, C.R.
 Kipling, Ivan
 Kirchner, Lorelei
 Kish, Joan
 Kitch, Charles
 Kline, Ernest
 Klink, Katherine
 Knapp, Mark
 Knappenberger, Dean
 Knell, David
 Kness, Don
 Koch, Harold
 Kohls, Gregory
 Koker, William
 Kosan, Mark
 Kozel, Joseph
 Kozlowski, Eugene
 Kramer, Philip
 Krbavac, Richard
 Kroon, Steven
 Krueger, Karen
 Kruzan, M.R.
 Kull, Steve
 La Bua, Mary
 Lander, James J.
 Lange, Kevin P.
 Langman Construction Co
 Lantz, Roy
 Larimer, Charles D.
 Larimore, Mark
 Larson, Philip
 Larson, Roger
 Lasman, Janis
 Lathrop, Ruth
 Law, Samuel
 Lawson, Rebecca
 Lawyer, Mary
 Lawyer, Vicky D.
 Leach, Elizabeth
 Leary, William
 Leath, Delbert
 Lebeck, Barbara
 Lefler, Wendell
 Lefort, David
 Leighty, Irvin
 Lester, Duane
 Lester, Otho S.
 Lin Lin, Chia
 Linder, Neal

Lindsay, Doris
 Lindsay, Doris L.
 Litchfield, David
 Little, Ruby
 LML ENG & MFG
 Lockwood, George
 Logan, Bobby J.
 Longanecker, Charles
 Louthan, Debra
 Lozier, James
 Lozier, W.E.
 Lutz, Norman
 Lynch, Carole
 Macejak, Steven
 Mackaben, William
 Mackey, G. Ray
 Mackey, Lester
 Maher, Trish
 Mahoney, Carol
 Mangiere, Joe
 Markley, Emmett
 Markley, Harold
 Marks, Frank
 Martin, David
 Martin, Hansel
 Martin, James
 Martin, Marian
 Martin, Michael
 Martin, Phillip
 Mason, Mary
 Mason, W.L.
 Mason-Page Inc
 Mathews, James
 Mathias, Corene
 Mattlin, Nicolet
 Maxey, Marie
 Mayall, Verlyn
 McCleery-Gray, Daryl
 McClure, George
 McCracken, Jeffrey
 McCrery, Douglas
 McDonald, Ken
 McGann, Frances
 McGee, Charles
 McGuire Farm
 McKee, Paul
 McKinzey, Kathryn
 McLaurin, Michael
 McMeen, Max
 McMillen, Alice
 McVey, Lucille
 Meier, Norman
 Melvin, Roger
 Mercer, James
 Meriwether, Susanne
 Mesecher, Mary
 Meyer, Frank
 Miles, Dale
 Miles, Duane
 Miller, Gale
 Miller, James
 Miller, Marvin
 Miller, Patricia
 Miller, Stephen
 Milliron, Raymond
 Miner, Mary
 Mlynski, Bruce
 Moburg, Gregory
 Moon, Marjorie
 Moon, Richard
 Moon, Richard
 Mooney, Robert A.
 Moore, Jaque M.
 Morris, Everett
 Morris, Gerald
 Morrison, Danny
 Morrison, Robert
 Morse, Leland
 Moss, Brett
 Moulton, Wayne
 Moustafa, Safwat M.
 Mowen, Leo

Mowen, Robert
 Mowen, Ronald E.
 Mullen, Claude
 Munson, Ray
 Murphy, Elizabeth
 Murray, Bernard
 Murray, Linda
 Mustain, Kirk
 Mustread, Randall
 Myers, Maxine
 Nagan, Daniel
 Nardiello, Linda
 Nash, Tony
 Nauman, John G.
 Neff, Harold
 Neill, Pat
 Nelson, Charles R.
 Nelson, Ralph
 Nester, Keith E.
 Newlon, Neil B.
 Nicholas, Stephen T.
 Nielsen Property Co.
 Inc.
 Nissen, Keith L.
 Norberg, Stephen R.
 Norris, Deloris
 Nunn, James
 Oakford, Susan
 Oates, Wayne R.
 O'Hara, Kevin
 O'Keefe, John
 Oldham, Robert
 Olson, Armound
 Olson, Carl D.
 Olson, Carol
 Olson, David
 Ormiston, Tad T.
 Orrill, Guy
 Osborn, Ellen
 Pads Enterprise
 Palmer, Robert
 Parke, Daniel
 Parker, Lynne
 Parker, Neil E.
 Parker, Virgil
 Parks, David
 Parks, David G.
 Parks, Kenneth
 Parrick, George
 Payne, Fred
 Pengilly, Sylvia
 Pennington, Elma
 Pennington, Mary
 Penny, Baker
 Penrod, Loreda
 Perez, Danita
 Perry, Raymond
 Peters, Everett
 Petersen, Kevin A.
 Peterson, Joseph M.
 Peterson, Kay
 Peterson, Randy
 Peterson, Willard
 Phillips, Jean
 Phillips, John
 Phillips, Virginia
 Pica, Joseph A.
 Pickett, James C.
 Pierce Jr, John
 Pierce, Alice
 Pierce, Darlene
 Pilger, Stephen L.
 Pinson, Lowell
 Pitcher, Charles
 Pletta, Joseph A.
 Porter, Kim
 Prairie Council Boy
 Scouts
 Promised Prairie Inc
 Purdy, Delbert
 Purity Banking Co

Quarles, Tom A.
 Quast, Nancy
 Rafferty, Gerald E.
 Ralston, Mary
 Ramblet, Marsha
 Ramer, James K.
 Randall, Charles
 Rankin, Anita
 Rankin, Dennis
 Rayman, Ronald
 Redd, Christopher R.
 Redman, Kevin
 Reeder, Don
 Reedy, Kenneth
 Reese, Greg
 Register, Jimmy
 Reihm, Lyle
 Reilly, Kathleen
 Rein, Michael
 Renner, Charles
 Renner, Wanda
 Reno, George B.
 Reverse, John J.
 Rexroat, Rex L.
 Reynolds, Paul
 Reynolds, Verne
 Rhodes, Sam
 Rhyherd, L.M.
 Richards, Robert J.
 Rimington, Edwin
 Roach, Donald W.
 Roark, Tom
 Roberts, Kenneth M.
 Roberts, Larry
 Robertson, Marvin
 Robertson, Thomas
 Roche, Dwaine
 Rodriguez, John
 Roe, Charles
 Roe, Danny W.
 Roger, Hewitt
 Root, Verle E.
 Ross, Charles
 Rothblatt, Dana
 Rouse, Earnest L.
 Rouse, James
 Rude, Jeffrey L.
 Ruebush, Raynold
 Runkle, Mildred
 Ryner, Paul
 Sabo, Nick
 Sackett, James
 Sage, Vergil
 Sailer, Helen
 Sallee, Aileen
 Sanders, Jenny
 Sandman, John J.
 Sargeant's Western
 Wear
 Saville, William E.
 Schindler, Eric J.
 Schisler, Beryl
 Schisler, F.L.
 Schmidt, Linda L.
 Schneider, John
 Schrader, Roger D.
 Schrodt, Clarence
 Schultz, Adlai J.
 Schwartz, Charles W.
 Scott, Howard E.
 Scott, Nicole
 Selby, Robert
 Sellars, Evelyn
 Semerad, Ralph J.
 Shaffer, Hazel
 Shanks, Gordon L.
 Shaver, Lillian
 Shepler, Jay
 Sheppard, David R.
 Shoemaker, Keith
 Shughart, Annamae

Sibley, Gary L.
 Sickles, Elmer & Betty
 Sikes, Edith
 Simpson, Kathryn B.
 Sipes, Ruby
 Skryd, Susan
 Slaughterbeck, Charles
 Slayden, Frank
 Sly, Eric
 Smith, Al
 Smith, Earl T.
 Smith, George
 Smith, Robert M.
 Smith, Ronald G.
 Smith, Russell
 Smith, William K.
 Snapp, Frank G.
 Snow, Charles
 Solomon, Laurie
 Sparks, Kenneth
 Sperry, Lola
 Sperry, Wayne
 Stambaugh, Glen
 Starkey, Jim
 Steagall, Doris
 Steck, Charlie
 Steeter, W.E.
 Stegall, Richard
 Stein, John F.
 Stelland, John M.
 Stevens, Robert
 Stewart, Allan R.
 Stice, Dan
 Stinimates, Jean
 Stoddard, Robert D.
 Stoneburner, Larry
 Stoneking, Marvin
 Streett, James W.
 Sullivan, Edgar
 Swan Hills Supper Club
 Swanson, Chris
 Swanson, Gary
 Swedell, Margaret
 Syfert, Carl F.
 Tabb, Clara
 Talley, Patricia
 Taylor, Larry
 Taylor, Reid W.
 Taylor, Richard
 Teare, Linda S.
 Teel, Linda
 Tetley Sidney
 Thomas, John
 Thomas, Steven E.
 Thompson, Thomas A.
 Thraen, Frances
 Tones, Esther
 Torok, Dorothy
 Torrance, Hazel
 Trimble, Robert
 Triple C Farm
 Trone, Bonnie
 Trone, Gay
 Tulin, Anita J.
 Turnquist, Steve
 Ulrich, William
 Umphryes, E.E.
 Upp, Paul
 Ussery, Katherine
 Van Brooker, Henry B.
 Vance, Linda S.
 Vance, Robert A.
 Vancil, Ivan
 Vanzuiden, Brent
 Varner, Larry
 Varnold, Harold
 Vetter, Amy
 Viegele, Thelma
 Virgin, Mary
 Voight, Donald M.
 W R Grace Co

Wade, Jeanette
 Wagner, Dorothea
 Wagyu, Ronald
 Walker, Chad
 Walker, Thomas A.
 Wall, Joseph D.
 Waller, Steven
 Walters, Harold
 Walton, James E.
 Waring, Carl
 Warner, Dean
 Watson, Leonard
 Watson, Robert
 Watson, Teresa L.
 Watson, Veanee
 Watts, Lois
 Wayland, Karen
 Waymack, Doug
 Waymack, Kenneth
 Weaver, Danny
 Weaver, George
 Weaver, Stephen
 Webster, Leila
 Weglarz, Guy
 Welch, Kenneth
 Welding, McEntire
 Weller, Paul F.
 Wells, Dennis L.
 Welsh, Lynn
 Wendt, Cynthia
 Werner, Andrew
 Wetzel, Alan
 Wetzel, Genevieve
 Wetzel, Ronald E.
 Wheeler, Wayne
 Whewell, Bonita
 Whitaker, Dennis
 Whitehead, James
 Whiting, Sharon
 Wickland, Mark
 Wiest, Patrick
 Wiet, William A.
 Wiley, Loren
 Wilhelm, Frank A.
 Wilkison, Deborah
 Wille, Alma
 Williams, Wayne
 Williams, Willett
 Wilson, Dean
 Wilson, E. Ferrol
 Wilson, Leland
 Wilson, Lloyd
 Wilson, Mark W.
 Wilson, Mary
 Wilson, Paul E.
 Wilson, Ralph E.
 Wilson, Steven P.
 Windhorst, Leonard C.
 Wingard, Esther
 Wingfield, Harlan
 Wingo, Deloris
 Wingo, Linda
 Winters, Randall
 Wolever, Betty
 Woldridge, Barbara
 Wood, Sterling
 Wood, Wanaeta
 Woodhill Associates
 Worrell, Carl
 Wozniak, William D.
 Wurmnest, Charles
 Yeager, Beth A.
 Yelton, Russell
 Yeoman, Herbert
 Yeomans, Jeffrey
 Young, Alice
 Young, Dorothy
 Young, Rhonda
 Zaverl, Harry
 Zuckerman, Michael
 Zulauf, Patricia

Students Encouraged to Apply for 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships



McDonough Power Cooperative President and CEO Steve Epperson has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year, the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. Seven scholarships in 2008 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth \$1,250.

High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. **Four scholarships will be awarded to a student whose parent is an electric cooperative consumer/member.** A fifth scholarship – The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship – will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. **The sixth and seventh scholarships will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all**

eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2008. **8325D1-633B**

“The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts,” said Steve Epperson. “McDonough Power Cooperative and other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth.”

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact McDonough Power Cooperative at 309-833-2101, or see your high school guidance counselor.



Office Closing

*We will be closed
December 24 and 25
for Christmas and
January 1, 2008,
for New Years!*





McDonough
Power
Cooperative

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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

Jeffrey Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Q&A

About the 2008 Rate Increase

How much does the co-op plan to increase its rates and when will I see the increase?

Effective January 1, 2008, the residential facility charge will increase \$2 and rates will increase 2 percent.

Why does the co-op need to increase rates?

We are preparing for a 54 percent increase in our wholesale power cost. Unfortunately, we have no control over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity. The cost of fuels, such as natural gas and coal, are increasing steadily. A tremendous increase in world energy demand, rising coal shipping costs, the uncertainty in the Middle East, unprecedented storms in the U.S. and global warming issues have significantly contributed to the increasing cost of energy.

What can I do to reduce my bill?

The co-op offers programs such as online energy audits and brochures to

identify opportunities for homeowners to cut power usage, and increase efficiency and comfort. In addition, we offer a budget billing program that averages monthly costs in order to soften the cost impact to members during high-usage months. 5525B5-1256A

Will this rate increase affect the co-op's profits?

We are a non-profit, member-owned cooperative. We exist to serve our members with reliable, affordable power. All revenues collected above expenses are allocated back to our members. We are in business for the public good rather than for the financial benefit of an individual owner or stockholders.

It is our intent to be proactive and good stewards of your resources – we will attempt to adjust rates in small amounts incrementally over time. This will allow all of us to prepare and plan for the inevitable increases we will face together.



Happy Holidays

from the Directors and Employees of McDonough Power Cooperative!

As we look forward to Christmas, we at McDonough Power Cooperative want to express our appreciation and say thank you for your patronage during this past year. We are grateful for your friendship and support. We wish you a joyous holiday season!

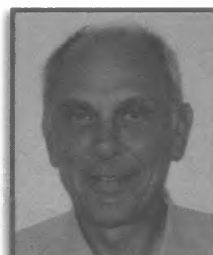
7318A1-604E



Doug Bear



Dawn Beck



Gary Budreau



Steve Epperson



Frank Fear



Debbie Fowler



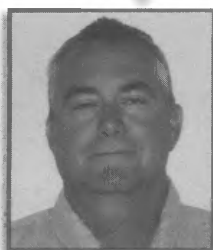
Kelly Hamm



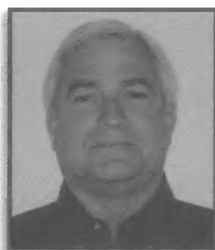
Jamison Holthaus



Elmer Nelson



Tim Norton



Ron Paulsen



Lynn Purdy



Cynthia Rigg



Mike Smith



Scott Traser



Amy Warrington



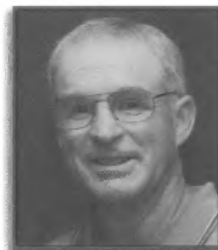
Clay Wiemerslage



Michael Cox



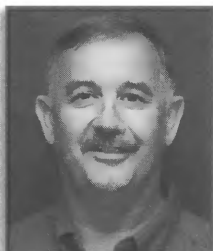
Robert J. Dwyer



Steve Hall



Walter Lewis



Steve Lynn



Jeffrey N. Moore



Stan Prox



Jerry Riggins



Steve Youngquist



Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

by Warren Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of his bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
There's so much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.
10324B8-354A

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.

I can do all these things, Lord, Only through You!
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

All this to honor the bird of the ONE,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.

So, to all my friends, least Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."