



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

McDonough Power sends students to Youth Day

State Senator Jil Tracy and Representative Norine Hammond met with students representing McDonough Power and McDonough Telephone during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 18 in Springfield. More than 210 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White. **525HHS7-951A**

During lunch, Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti addressed students and chaperones. Sanguinetti discussed her humble beginnings and being encouraged to not allow her background to limit her future. With her passion for volunteerism in local communities, she challenged students to volunteer to make a difference. Illinois State Fair Manager Luke Sailer, a former Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, challenged the students to take an interest in the political process and stressed how important their voices and actions are. He encouraged them to “take a leap of faith and work hard, and doors will open for you and your future.”

Faye Yang, the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process. After lunch, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham



Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day, the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, June 8-15, 2018. Meagan Jackson of Macomb High School and Charles Hensley of Bushnell-Prairie City High School were chosen to represent McDonough Power during Youth Tour. Johnnie Dean of West Prairie High School was selected to serve as an alternate.

Pictured with Senator Jil Tracy and Representative Norine Hammond are students Camila Bethell, Madeline Blaesing, Gibson Blankenship, Meadow Boden, Emma Bradford, Noah Bright, Emily Canter, Lillian Carter, Ashley Chancy, Taylor Combites, Nicholas Corman, Johnnie Dean, Charles Hensley, Meagan Jackson, Jacob Keever, Hunter Kienast, Alyson McMillen, William Ornduff, Riley Peterson, Anderson Poulter, Mackenzie Rhoads, Emily Richardson, Jordan Rouse, Olivia Salrin, Jakob Thomas and Bradley Weishaar: and chaperones Les Fowler and Kelly Hamm.

Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.



CLOSED FOR

Independence Day
Wednesday, July 4.



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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays



DIRECTORS

- Jeff Moore, Chairman
- Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman
- Steve Youngquist, Secretary
- David Lueck, Treasurer
- Jerry Riggins
- Mike Cox
- Bob Dwyer
- Steve Hall
- Steve Lynn
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 The power of human connections

Maintain the safe zone around pad-mounted transformers

By Derrill Holly

Jordan Overbee was driving to work when he saw them. The elementary school-aged youngsters were just waiting for the school bus, but they were sitting on a big green metal box. Inside was vital electrical equipment, distributing electricity to several homes on the street. “It was a bad place for a school bus stop,” Overbee recalled. “There were five kids gathered there to wait for a bus, sitting, talking and playing for a few minutes because it was between driveways.” **10225C4-302B**

As manager of operations for Wake Electric Membership Corp., Overbee knows a lot about pad-mounted transformers. They make up about half of the transformers used across the Youngsville, North Carolina-based co-op’s system.

“Transformers change voltage from higher levels to voltages people use in their homes for their electronics, appliances and lighting,” said Overbee. “Each of our transformers can be vital to providing electricity to several homes.”

Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.

Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.

Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.

Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.

After seeing the kids waiting at that same transformer several days in a row, Overbee pulled over and talked to some of the parents. He explained that high voltage electricity flowed through the transformer inside the casing and encouraged them to move a safer distance away. “The parents hadn’t thought much about it, so once I explained the risks, they were happy to move to another driveway,” Overbee said.

While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles and substations are protected by security fences, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals are at ground level. **6315B1-708A**

“We have about 5,400 pad mounted transformers on our system,” said Van Crawford, vice president of operations at Peace River Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Wauchula, Florida. “Of that number, 4,800 of them are located in the western district of our service territory.”

In many newer subdivisions and residential developments, overhead lines are no longer an option. Burying power lines also reduces potential system damage from high winds and severe storms. While consumers seldom see technicians working on the transformers unless there are power outages, they are regularly inspected by co-op crews riding through neighborhoods.

“We can see fault indicators from the road,” said Crawford, adding that one of the biggest concerns is safe access when repairs or component adjustments must be made. “That’s why it’s important that landscaping and other barriers be kept clear of co-op equipment.”

Co-op technicians need at least 10-foot clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer. Approximately four feet of open space is preferable at the rear and on the sides of the metal housing. That distance allows for tool use, including hot sticks—typically eight feet in length, used to work with energized equipment.

It also ensures that one or two technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver should they have to back away if problems occur.

“We once had a member use a transformer box as a work bench platform, and obviously we had to have him remove it,” said Crawford. “We always try to explain the risks, and most members are more than willing to cooperate once they understand.”

Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses. That’s why it’s important to check with McDonough Power before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems and digging where it might damage underground lines.

McDonough Power Cooperative recommends that you call JULIE for a site assessment and marking before proceeding with projects that might disrupt utility service – simply call 8-1-1,” said Kelly Hamm, McDonough Power’s Energy Services Manager.

While pad-mounted transformers in developed, suburban or urban areas are regularly inspected for damage from vehicles, many utilities use marking sticks or pennants to alert tractor, snow plow or heavy equipment operators of their locations.

McDonough Power also encourages public works and transportation departments to keep their equipment, supplies and road debris at least 15 feet away from pad-mounted transformers.

Derrill Holly writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. **532RM85-900C**



Member trustees meet quarterly to review applications. Pictured left to right is Richard Filipink, June Friend, Matt Housewright, Wanda Carson, Janet Schreck, Linda Prox, Dan Byers, Ellie Zoerink and Linetta Null.

Operation Round-Up Program

Seven applications for Operation Round-Up were approved on Wednesday, April 25 for a total of \$12,000 to the following organizations:

- \$2,500 – **Colchester Area Gathering Place**; backpack program
- \$2,000 – **Warren County Agricultural Fair**; upgrade livestock housing barns – fresh paint and new pens
- \$1,000 – **Colchester Area Relief Effort**; purchase food to help alleviate hunger in McDonough County
- \$2,000 – **McDonough County 4-H Building & Grounds Corp.**; upgrade wiring in the show and cattle barns
- \$1,500 – **Western Illinois University Foundation**; wheelchairs for the Kinesiology Department’s Advocacy and Education of Adapted Sport Project
- \$1,000 – **Warren County United Way**; launching the 2-1-1 program in Warren County
- \$2,000 – **Wester Illinois Museum**; New Window Campaign

Operation Round-Up receives about \$2,100 from members each month and has contributed almost \$60,000 since the inception of the program in late 2016.

Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2018 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 5 at Cerar's Barnstormer in Monmouth at 7 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2018 annual meeting of members to be held Aug. 21 at The Crossing in Macomb.

District 1 – (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Jerry Davis, 88 Chessington Way, 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): Becka Raby, 6697 N 300th Rd, Plymouth and Todd Dixon, 3105 E 500th St, Plymouth.

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): Ray Danielson, 8580 E 750th St, Colchester.

District 4 – (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett Townships in McDonough County): Marcia Blackledge, 18035 E 260th St, Blandinsville.

District 5 – (composed of the East half of Scotland and all 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 and Scott Coker, 16135 N 1050th Rd, Macomb.

District 6 – (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City Townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton

County): Julie Blout, 22320 E 2200th St, Prairie City.

District 7 – (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Randy Winbigler, 952 10th Ave, Roseville.

District 8 – (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): Phil Russell, PO Box 223, Roseville and Lynn Shimmin, 733 90th Ave, 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): Marc Hanson, 1347 200th Ave, Monmouth.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the board of directors may be made by (1) the nominating committee or, (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.

The terms of directors from Districts 2, 5 and 8 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our board of directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; 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 120 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected and one member

from each of the other districts served by the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting.

Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Laundry Tip:

Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov



Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.