

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Spoon River Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting

Spoon River Electric Cooperative celebrated its 81st Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 14 at Farmington Central High School. Approximately 200 members and guests were present and enjoyed a delicious chicken and noodle meal, catered by the Fairview Cafe. Member-owners were updated on the cooperative's 2017 financial results, system reliability, solar in Illinois and the cooperative's new rate design. In the tradition of its founders, the annual meeting reflected the cooperative business model by applying three of the seven cooperative principles: democratic member control, members' economic participation and concern for community.

CFO/Office Manager Cody Schall explained that at the end of 2017, the cooperative's total margins were \$361,632, which was a decrease from 2016. The decrease was due to more mild weather in 2017 and increased power costs, but it was slightly offset by an increase in meters. President/

CEO Bill Dodds then explained the cooperative's new rate design. The new rate design includes unbundling costs associated with member-owners' monthly bills. Dodds discussed the rate project's timeline, provided billing comparisons and showed examples of the new rate structure. New rates are set to go into effect July 2018.

Barry Shear, owner of Eagle Point Solar, spoke about the changes in solar in Illinois with the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). With this legislation, Spoon River Electric members and all of Illinois will see an increase in solar due the solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) that decreases the cost of solar. Shear mentioned that Spoon River Electric is ahead of the curve by equally distributing costs evenly to all members whether they choose to participate in solar or not.

The members also exercised the second cooperative principle, democratic member control through re-electing JoDee Pedigo of Canton, John Spangler of Marietta and Bernard Marvel of Browning to its board of directors.

It is in the spirit of the third cooperative principle, members' economic participation, that three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded. The Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Hannah Spangler, a graduate of Bushnell-Prairie City High School. Ryan Nixon, a graduate of Knoxville High School, was awarded the Scholastic Scholarship. A \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship was awarded to Braeton Kimbro, an Astoria High School graduate. Several other students that live in the cooperative's service area were awarded \$100 scholarships.



JoDee Pedigo and Bernard Marvel

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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

President/CEO

William R. Dodds
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Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Terry Beam, Cuba

Secretary

Jack Clark, Lewistown

Treasurer

Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

Assistant Treasurer

Robert Lascelles, Ipava

Board of Directors

James Banks, Canton
Wesley Strode, Marietta
JoDee Pedigo, Canton
John Spangler, Marietta

Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
tmellert@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

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

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Annual Meeting continued from 20a

Service awards were presented to employees and directors as follows:

- Keith Miller – 10 years of service
- Jack Clark – 20 years of board service

In addition to the third cooperative principle, members demonstrated the seventh principle, concern for community. At last year's annual meeting, members voted to adopt

the Operation Round Up program. This program allows members to provide financial support to community betterment projects. Funding is donated by volunteers that round up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. To date, Spoon River Electric's Operation Round up has collected \$22,678 and has donated \$9,500 back into the communities it serves. Organizations that have

benefited include: Knoxville FFA/Ag Department, VIT Technology Department, Cuba FFA, Ingersoll Scout Reservation, Astoria Fire Department, Cuba Fire Protection District, and the Fulton County Fair and Racing Association.

Entertainment was performed by Sam Woolf, a top five finalist of American Idol's 2014 season.



Stay Away from Electrical Substations

An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:



Never release metallic balloons near substations. If they get caught in the equipment or lines, they can cause power outages.



Never fly kites or drones near electrical substations. If you do and the kite or drone gets caught inside the fence, let us retrieve it for you.



Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences. The area is dangerous, and these fences are NOT for climbing.



If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or looks to be vandalized, please contact us immediately.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES