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The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO



**Daylight Savings –
Fall back on November 4**



**Office closed for
Thanksgiving –
November 22 & 23**

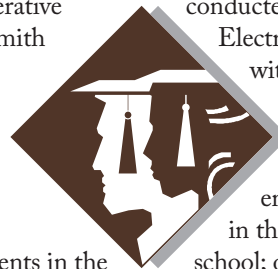
Twelve 2019 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

McDonough Power Cooperative President/CEO Mike Smith has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2019 will award 11 academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a 12th scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2019 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **539JN2-266B**

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A seventh 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. Four additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The 12th scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” is a \$2,000 scholarship that will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school



conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker’s school; or individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible to apply for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Smith. “McDonough Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship, endowed by our very own retired lineman, LaVern McEntire. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact the McDonough Power Cooperative office. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for completion at the cooperative’s website at www.mcdonoughpower.com.



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We're thankful for your membership

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, We'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to McDonough Power Cooperative, we are able to make our community a better place.

During this season of giving thanks, it's important to let you and other consumer-members of McDonough Power know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “Concern for Community.” While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We are purposeful in offering our Operation Round-Up program. This is a way for all of our members to take part in contributing pocket change to assist non-profit organizations and schools in our communities.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and provide warm winter coats to children in need. McDonough Power also participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower

the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. **5313A5A-956C**

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

Because we are locally governed by members of our community, we are able to get a first-hand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term

investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisors that serve the co-op's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve. **539C6-266B**

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

McDonough Power Cooperative was originally established 81 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.



Safety considerations for solar installations

In an increasingly popular trend, many homeowners and businesses are turning to solar power for electricity. So, it is important for first responders to be aware of the potential hazards associated with solar installations when responding to emergency calls.

One of the most common types of solar systems in the U.S. is a photovoltaic (PV) system. PV devices convert sunlight into electrical energy. These solar panels use both direct and scattered sunlight. These systems are exposed to outdoor weather conditions which increase the aging process. According to the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF), heavy wind can stress the panel, hail can cause cracking on the panel, and snow and debris can affect the energy performance. For homeowners, these are commonly mounted on the roof for easy access to the sun and to save space.

It is important to be aware that roof-mounted panels could cause problems in the case of a fire. The FPRF explains that solar panels cannot easily be shut down, so electric shock is the primary danger, especially during the day when sunlight is powering the system. A PV solar system damaged during a



nighttime fire, which once exposed to sunlight, could begin to generate electricity and create a shock hazard or re-ignition of the fire. **101E7A9-408C**

Roof-mounted solar panels also add additional weight to the roof, which could pose a threat during a fire. The extra weight could cause the roof to cave in sooner than expected, putting firefighters at risk.

On roofs where solar panels take up a large amount of space, these installations can inhibit emergency responders from doing their job efficiently during structural fires. Vertical ventilation, where a hole is cut through the roof of a building to release smoke, is a common

maneuver that has been used to save lives and increase visibility of victims. When solar panels prevent firefighters the ability to gain direct access to the fire, a person or family is put at a higher risk of smoke inhalation and risk of death. The solar panel equipment can also pose tripping, slipping and snagging hazards, and broken panel glass can cause cutting hazards to first responders and equipment. As a part of emergency scene assessment, Safe Electricity encourages first responders to look for renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, and take steps to stay safe. For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers?
When possible, use the
microwave to reheat food.
Microwaves use as much as
80 percent less energy than
a standard oven.

Source: energy.gov



Member Prizes

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.

TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:

1.

Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)



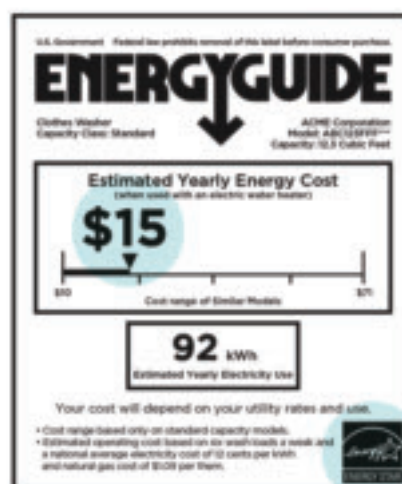
2.

Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance. The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- Once you choose your make and model, compare prices. Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- Recycle or sell your old appliance. Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!



Source: Department of Energy



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES