

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Be ready for Mother Nature

When Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready. Hundreds of Americans are injured or killed in the winter months due to car accidents on slippery roads and in home fires caused by improper use of heaters. In addition, winter storms create a higher risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks due to overexertion.

Because winter brings its own set of challenges, Safe Electricity reminds you to prepare for extreme weather and to stay home during and after storms whenever possible.

Be ready

Prepare ahead of time for massive snowfall, blizzards or ice storms that could last for days at a time. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for the latest winter storm updates. In addition, use a cell phone to stay informed by signing up for weather alerts. Have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. Also, have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) to listen for updates.

In preparing for a storm, be sure to:

- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have a supply of medications.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food as well as plenty of drinking water and a first-aid kit.
- Prepare for weather events year round by keeping a checklist of items to have on hand. Have as many of these essentials at the ready and in one place in case a storm event happens without warning.
- As the winter months approach, prepare your home with proper insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.



Stay inside

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are cleared. Some think whatever they had planned is too important to miss. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident.

If you drive in extreme conditions, do not leave your car. Your car should also be equipped with several items during cold months, such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, warm clothing, tire chains, canned and compressed air with sealant for tire repair, booster cables, emergency flares, and road salt or sand for traction.

If you're at home during an outage, please know we will restore power as fast as possible without compromising safety. Don't turn on the stove for heat. It's not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and coats. You can use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heaters when used correctly.

When it comes to portable heaters, follow all instructions for use and:

- Don't place clothing on or near a portable heater
- Don't put a portable heater on the counter or other surface
- Don't leave it unattended

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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President/CEO

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Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
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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

Continued from 20a

- Don't place on rugs, near paper or anything else that could ignite.

Make sure there is 3 feet of unobstructed area

When using a portable generator, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to windows, doorways or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

35 ft.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: ESFI.org

See you at the annual meeting By Anne Prince

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “what’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Spoon River Electric’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Spoon River Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Spoon River Electric is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It’s worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Spoon River Electric wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While Spoon River Electric provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on

Thursday, June 6 at Farmington Central High School with a meal being served at 5 pm. and the Business Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.



February 2

Free Family Event

2019

Fulton Mason EAGLE DAY

For more information visit experienceemiquon.com or call Dickson Mounds Museum at 309-547-3721



ATTENTION 2018-2019 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2018-2019 school year and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting on June 6, 2019.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 10, 2019** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting June 6, 2019 to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2018-2019 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2019-2020 school year. Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.



Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone Number _____

Return To: Taryn Mellert
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647-2700