

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

You're more than a customer

By Anne Prince, NRECA

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Spoon River Electric's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation.

Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1938 Spoon River Electric was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create Spoon River Electric. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual

meeting each year to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Spoon River Electric members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as school groups/programs, fire departments, food pantries and many others through our Operation Round Up Program. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

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.

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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
bdodds@srecoop.org

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

HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE

Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.

ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Respect **roadside** work crews.

Don't drive distracted.
Reduce your speed.
Change lanes.

1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**

70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**

12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line **could electrocute a utility worker** or neighbor.

DON'T post signs on **utility poles**.

Foreign objects can **tear** utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an **electric shock**.

Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov



Spoon River Electric's Operation Round-Up donates \$21,250 in first year

Spoon River Electric's Operation Round-Up Program was able to donate \$21,250 back into the communities within the cooperative's service territory in its first year.

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "Round-Up" their electric bill to the next dollar and donating this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round-Up Program. All of the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually is about \$6.

One of our seven cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Through the Operation Round-Up Program, Spoon River Electric

members can see how the cooperative is giving back. The volunteer committee members have also been privileged to meet with all the different organizations that have benefited through Operation Round-Up this year. "It's a great feeling that we as a small cooperative are able to give back in such a big way to the communities we serve," says Taryn Mellert of Spoon River Electric.

Organizations receiving money include: VIT High School Technology Program, Cuba FFA Chapter, Knoxville FFA/Ag Department, Cuba Fire Protection District, Ingersoll Scout Reservation, Fulton County Fair & Racing Association, Astoria Fire Department,



Browning Volunteer Fire Department, Smithfield Fire Protection District, Astoria School District, Vermont Ballpark Playground, Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank, Dickson Mounds Museum Society – Tot Time, Lewistown Association of Churches Food Pantry, Cuba Cares, and the Cuba Church of the Nazarene.

Second quarter applications are due April 1, 2019. If you have any questions or would like an application, please contact Taryn Mellert at 309-647-2700.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website srecoop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab.





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
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
PO Box 340
Canton, IL 61520
647-2700