



*Mike Smith*  
President and CEO

## McDonough Power and CoBank Team Up to Assist Three Area Non-Profits

Through an annual grant-matching program offered by CoBank, called Sharing Success, McDonough Power Cooperative has awarded donations to three area non-profit agencies in the co-op's service territory.

### Local grant recipients for CoBank's Sharing Success Program in 2019 are:

- \$5,000 to Macomb High School Ag Education, where funds will be used to purchase a fertilizer injector and veterinary science equipment
- \$5,000 to Jamieson Community Center, for computer upgrades
- \$5,000 to Emmet-Chalmers Fire Protection District, toward the purchase of an automatic standby generator

CoBank serves rural infrastructure providers throughout the nation, including McDonough Power Cooperative. The cooperative bank launched Sharing Success several years ago to help fulfill an ongoing mission to service rural America and build vibrant communities across the country.

"McDonough Power is pleased to aid community organizations through this generous matching grant program offered by CoBank," said McDonough Power's Kelly Hamm, who oversees marketing and member services. "We have a single purpose at the co-op, and that is to serve our members in ways that improve their quality of life. The Sharing Success program is yet another tool we can use to support the community."

CoBank set aside \$4 million in 2019 to fund the program, which matches contributions made by its customers, such as McDonough Power, to local charitable organizations of their choice. CoBank recognizes that its customers often know best where funding can most effectively benefit their communities. 833C3-364C





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## DIRECTORS

Jeff Moore, Chairman

Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

David Lueck, Treasurer

Jerry Riggins

Mike Cox

Bob Dwyer

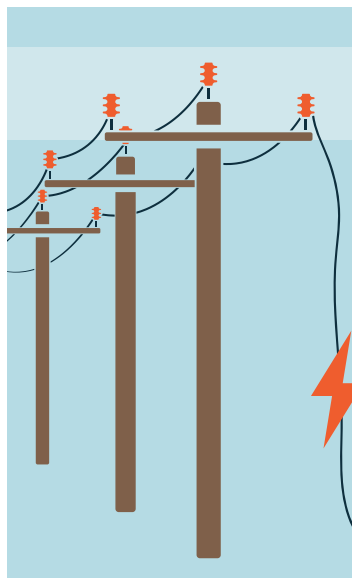
Steve Hall

Steve Lynn

John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections

## KNOW WHAT TO DO

### WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

Power lines can come down for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones. **When lines do go down there are precautions you need to take to stay safe:**

- **Call 9-1-1** to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines **do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.**
- Stay at least **10 feet away** from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, **remain in the vehicle** until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- **If there is a fire** or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

**Always treat a downed power line as live and never touch any wire that is down. Learn more at:**

[SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## Always assume a downed power line is deadly

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you too could become a victim by entering the energized area. **4121D1-1156C**

Power lines can come down or sag close to the ground for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident, for instance. And a downed line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris.

Stay clear of all types of utility lines. Even if you think lines might be designated for telephone or cable service, they may have contact with damaged and energized power lines nearby. Safe Electricity and McDonough Power Cooperative offer these additional safety reminders:

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed

line or anything it is touching with another object such as a stick or pole. Even materials that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are slightly wet.

- Do not step in water or walk in debris near a downed power line.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the downed power line.
- Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and **STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE** until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.
- Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.

Always consider all lines, regardless of the type, energized at deadly voltages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Nominating Committee report

Pursuant to the bylaws, the members of the nominating committee met at Chubby's in Macomb, Illinois, on June 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. to nominate candidates for election as directors at the McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. 8129B4-864C

The following members were present:

- Todd Lester
- Mike Melvin
- Mike McMillan
- Jan Irish
- Ray Danielson
- Matt Housewright
- Wanda Carson
- Brent Payne
- Randy Wingbigler
- Terry Byers
- Tom Vary
- June Friend

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for director to serve for a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting.

**DISTRICT #1: Michael Cox**

**DISTRICT #3: Walt Lewis**

**DISTRICT #7: Steve Hall**

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition.

**Matt Housewright, Chairman**

## Converting a dumb home to a smart one: Is it worth it?

Depending on your age, your techie factor or perhaps your interests, you may or may not be excited at the prospect of installing smart devices in your home. Becoming more and more a part of our vocabulary, having a "smart home" or even a semi-smart one can help make the many tasks we do each day less time consuming and more fun.

So what, exactly, are smart homes? They are houses that boast a number of interconnected devices and home appliances that perform certain actions or functions. Smart-home performance is often more efficient than the owner-operated kind, which could save money. Other high-tech, smarty-pants devices won't save much on your utility bills but can increase your home's cool factor.

Smart home automation allows you to program a variety of items ranging from a smart thermostat, lights, window blinds and even an automatic pet-feeding bowl.

If all your devices are interconnected, you can orchestrate them from one place on your tablet or cell phone. And if you have voice-assisted technology, you can just use your words, and presto! — the coffee maker starts or your lights turn on or off.

In many upper-end markets, buyers can consider a new home that is already smart. For the rest of us, it can cost in



the thousands to upgrade our entire home with multiple smart devices. If your house has not yet arrived on the smart scene, there are ways to increase your home's "smartness."

Examples include smart thermostats, gizmos that track energy use such as individual smart plugs or whole-house monitoring trackers (so that you can improve your energy "fitness"), and smart lighting that includes motion sensors and phone app controls.

Smart appliances and devices can save money because in many cases they allow you to use less energy. They're also convenient, fun to use and can give you peace of mind. In short, some may be worth it in the long run.

And a new home that's certified smart or even super intelligent? We can all dream, can't we?

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Stay back and stay safe

By Anne Prince, NRECA

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for McDonough Power Cooperative, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity



who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you. **5316C8-260B**

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your

family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize McDonough Power employees by their bright yellow or tan logoed shirts and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

## Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

## Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues,

## 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.