



*Mike Smith
President and CEO*

McDonough Power and McDonough Telephone students join national electric co-op Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 62 students from 26 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,800 of their peers across the



U.S.? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

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Six students from McDonough Power Cooperative and McDonough Telephone Cooperative, Inc. service territories were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2019 Youth Tour delegates from McDonough Power included William Ornduff of Cameron and Annie Powell of Macomb. McDonough Telephone students were McLain Engnell of Good Hope, Reese Esther of Rushville and Kerem Tasdan and Erbenita Zejnul of Macomb. Tasdan was this year's Rep. Rich Myers Memorial Youth Tour recipient. **7125D6-168A**

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representatives Cheri Bustos and Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's Cottage at First National Cemetery, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,800 Youth Tour participants

from across the nation and a special farewell event at the Newseum, scheduled to close later this year.

During the Youth Day Assembly on June 17, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange handed out three luck-of-the-draw scholarships to students attending Youth Tour. This was the first year these scholarships were handed out, and Ornduff was the lucky winner of a \$1,000 scholarship to be used to help further his education.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says Ashley Graham, Youth Tour coordinator. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.



**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
FOR LABOR DAY.**



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www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays



DIRECTORS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



82nd Annual Meeting

Power for the Generations

You are cordially invited to join us...

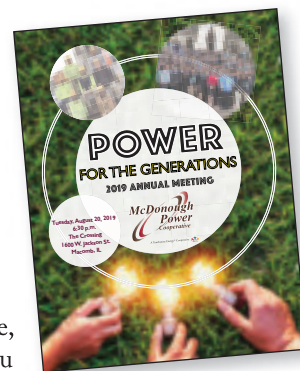
You should receive your annual meeting booklet in the mail soon, if you haven't already. This notice contains information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and registration information. As a member of your cooperative, you have a voice, and by attending the annual meeting, you will learn more about your how your cooperative operates.

In addition to **CrossOver** returning to entertain the crowd on stage and our famous kettle corn, we have another sweet surprise for you – lemonade shake-ups! That's right, the Prairieland Barbershop Chorus will be shaking things up with their infamous lemonade shake-ups! **6110A3-168C**

Plan to attend this year's annual meeting on Tuesday, August 20. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. Each member in attendance will receive a \$10 bill credit (\$11 if you bring the registration card from the back of the annual meeting notice). As in previous years, the Macomb Bomber Boosters will be grilling barbecue pork chops served up by the Scotland Clever Clovers 4-H Club. Dinner will be served from 5 to 6:15 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us on August 20 for your cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jeffrey Moore
Chairman of the Board



McDonough Power Cooperative 82nd Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, August 20 at The Crossing in Macomb
Doors Open at 5 p.m. – Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

9 Evening Highlights

- 1) Receive a \$10 bill credit (\$11 with registration card) at registration, one per member's account
- 2) Grilled pork chop dinner with chips, dessert and a drink
- 3) Fresh popped kettle corn!
- 4) Attendance gift, one per member's account
- 5) Musical entertainment provided by CrossOver
- 6) Lemonade Shake-ups by Prairieland Barbershop Chorus
- 7) Exercise your right to vote, by voting for your Board of Directors
- 8) Drawings for prizes following business meeting
- 9) Socialize with your friends and neighbors



Building a new grain bin on your farm?

Remember grain bins have clearance requirements

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines: when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.


Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind related to power lines is grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements. **9117B2-458B**

If you plan to build a new grain bin or remodel around an area that already has one, contact McDonough Power Cooperative at (309) 833-2101. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line extremely dangerous, it will most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

Remember, calling us before installing a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly, it interrupts your farming schedule and is just an all-around hassle. The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements so don't leave a bin's location to chance.

For example, a grain bin that is 30 feet high must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.


Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around



ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

Test your electrical safety knowledge by taking the quiz below!
Use the answer key if you need help.

- Smoke alarms in your home should be tested _____.
A. once a week
B. twice a year
C. once a month
- Overloading electrical outlets and power strips can create an electrical fire hazard.
A. True
B. False
- What's the most dangerous place to use electricity?
A. Outdoors
B. Near other electrical equipment
C. Near water
- It's safe to run an electrical cord under a rug or carpet as long as the cord is not damaged.
A. True
B. False
- Which is safest to play near?
A. Power lines
B. Pad-mounted transformers
C. Neither A or B - both are dangerous



Answer Key: C B A C B A C

an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

***SAFETY NOTE:** If your machinery or vehicle does contact a power line, do not get out of the cab. Call 9-1-1 and the dispatched utility will de-energize the power so you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.*



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.



Is a power line insulated?

(and other myths debunked)

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 9-1-1 to report. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities. **6217D1B-102A**

Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark, arc or make any noise at all.

Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it doesn't mean it's dead. There's a chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, but also means the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.



Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other critter can sit on a power line all day happy as a lark because there is no path to ground. If the animal were to contact the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away.

Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.

Contact us at (309) 833-2101 with any questions about downed lines. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.