

## President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

## Why is my power out?

*When power goes out, we are working hard to restore it*

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible. Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out.

### Storms

Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.

### Trees and vegetation

Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines, and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.

### Animals

It is estimated that 11 percent of outages are caused by our furry friend the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and raccoons can interfere with service too. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe for the bird as long as it touches the line and nothing else.

### Accidents

Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.

### Public damage

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism, or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.



### Overload

This happens when demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.

### Equipment issues

We maintain and inspect all our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

Please contact **Spoon River Electric** at **309.647.2700** with questions about outages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# 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](http://www.srecoop.org)

## *President/CEO*

William R. Dodds  
[bdodds@srecoop.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

# Electrical Safety Myths

Don't always believe what you hear

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH** Power lines that are coated are always insulated.

**FACT** The coating could be for weatherproofing only. All power lines can be deadly.

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH** A fallen or damaged power line will "arc" (display a flame), spark, & make noise.

**FACT** A live power line may not have any unusual characteristics. Stay away!

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH** When live wires fall to the ground, they are automatically de-energized.

**FACT** Always assume every downed power line is energized.

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH** Wood is a good insulator.

**FACT** Wood can be a weak conductor. If it is damp or wet, it becomes a great one.

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH** I can move a downed line with a stick or other object to get it out of the way.

**FACT** Never touch a power line for any reason – either with your hand or an object. Stay away and call 9-1-1.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## Old electronics deserve a proper burial

**WAIT!** Before you give your outdated electronics the heave-ho, consider this earth-friendly advice from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

### Consider recycling

Electronics are made from metals, plastics and glass that require energy and time to reproduce. For example, according to the EPA, recycling 1 million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by more than 3,500 U.S. homes in a year. For every million cell phones we recycle, 35 thousand pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

### Before you donate or recycle

Can you upgrade the hardware or software on your current computer to extend its life? If the answer is no and you ultimately decide to get rid of a computer or other device, destroy all personal information from the device first. Also, remove any batteries from your electronics for separate recycling.

### Where to donate or recycle

Several manufacturers and local and national retailers offer donation or recycling options. The EPA's Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) tracks and publicizes participants, and major companies include Best Buy, Dell, Sprint, Sony and Vizio. SMM participants strive to send 100 percent of used electronics they collect to certified recyclers and refurbishers.

### How to remove data

There are a variety of ways to permanently erase (or "sanitize") data from your electronic devices prior to getting rid of them, and methods vary from device to device. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Earth 911, and other electronic recycling gurus, general guidelines include:



- 1. Back up data.** Save your data to another device or second location (external hard drive or cloud).
- 2. Delete data.** Although files appear to have been removed, data is still there, according to Homeland Security. Even if you empty the virtual trash, the deleted items can still be retrieved. Permanent data deletion requires several steps; spend some time researching how to effectively delete data for the device you are recycling.
- 3. Overwrite.** This is when you delete sensitive information and write new binary data over it. Unless you are a computer expert you might want to consult a professional for this.
- 4. Destroy/take your stress out on your device.** Physically destructing a device is the ultimate way to prevent someone else from retrieving your personal information. There are companies that specialize in disintegrating, burning, melting or pulverizing your computer drive and other devices.

For more information about recycling electronics, refer to EPA's website and other reputable sources. For more info about removing data from your electronic device, refer to the Department of Homeland Security's website. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).





# ATTENTION 2019-2020 SENIORS!

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

High school students who are seniors during the 2019-2020 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 4, 2020.

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 15, 2020** 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 4, 2020 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 2019-2020 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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