



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Concern for Community

It's one of our guiding cooperative principles – Concern for Community – and now, more than ever, the concern for the communities we serve is high. A couple of generous programs have allowed McDonough Power Cooperative to provide financial assistance to organizations in our area.

One of McDonough Power's most unique and exciting community programs is the CoBank Sharing Success program, a matching grant opportunity which benefits local nonprofit organizations. Aimed at supporting local communities and people, the grant is made possible by our board of directors, in partnership with CoBank – a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services. This year they are providing up to \$10,000 in matching grants to four organizations designated by the Cooperative. 10123A6A-416A

Recipients of this year's Sharing Success grants include Western Illinois Regional Council – Community Action Agency, Jamieson Community Center – Food Pantry, The Crossing Church – Food Pantry, and McDonough Power Cooperative Cares – Coats for Kids. Each organization received \$5,000 – that's \$2,500 from CoBank as well as the \$2,500 match from McDonough Power.

"Rural communities and cooperatives like McDonough Power are lucky to have the generous support of CoBank and we are thankful for the contributions



enabling us to help make our communities a better place to live and work," said Kelly Hamm, McDonough Power energy services manager.

"CoBank and McDonough Power have partnered in the Sharing Success matching grant program every year since 2012," says McDonough Power president and CEO Mike Smith. "This grant program is a testament to CoBank and McDonough Power's commitment to the communities and people that we serve."

McDonough Power Cooperative's Operation Round-Up program has also been assisting community organizations since its inception in 2016. This program is funded by you, our members, by simply allowing your bill to be rounded-up to the next dollar each month. That's less than

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www.mcdonoughpower.com

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

Find us on 

DIRECTORS

Jeff Moore, Chairman

Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

David Lueck, Treasurer

Jerry Riggins

Mike Cox

Bob Dwyer

Steve Hall

Steve Lynn

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The power of human connections



Let's talk

The energy industry is undergoing rapid change, and technology is paving the way for innovation in the way energy is used, produced, stored and shared. Consumers are interested in more green energy alternatives while smart homes and apps make managing energy use and paying electric bills more convenient than ever.

While the changing energy market has created more options for consumers, it has also resulted in more utility scams and misleading information surrounding solar installations, in particular. That's because of two factors. 5219C9A-570A

Utility scams are common because of the vast number of utilities that exist, and consumers are understandably anxious with the threat of disruption to their electric, heating or water service. Second, new products and services in the energy industry provide an opening for scammers and pop-up companies to provide misleading information or shoddy products and services.

Avoid phone scams

A common phone scam typically begins with a phone number that appears to be from a valid utility company. The scammer will claim you have a past due account and threaten to disconnect service or take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within a short, urgent time frame to pay the "past due" amount.

You can combat this scam by being aware of the status of your account. Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you have a question or concern about your energy bill, call us directly at 309-833-2101. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer.

Avoid solar scams

Another scam we see from time to time is connected to rooftop solar. Homeowners with rooftop solar may receive a sales call offering an accessory, upgrade or extended warranty to their solar array. The calls could be from crooks claiming to represent a solar company,



promising to replace faulty or broken parts or improve efficiency. Again, if you are not expecting the call, don't be fooled. These calls offering misleading information are likely a scam. Call McDonough Power or the company that installed the solar array if you think there may be a problem. Other than occasional cleaning, rooftop solar (if installed correctly) is virtually maintenance-free.

Use trusted sources

If you're considering solar for your home, make sure you are working with a reputable company. Because this is still an emerging industry with evolving technology, there has been a proliferation of pop-up companies in the market to make a quick buck. Representatives of rooftop solar companies may have more sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

McDonough Power can offer a candid assessment to determine whether rooftop solar is right for you. After all, McDonough Power has a different "bottom line" that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We take a more holistic, objective view of how to achieve energy and cost savings for our members, and that may or may not include rooftop solar.

In this ever-changing environment, it's important to remember you have a trusted energy partner – your local electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members.

Remember, we're just one call or click away, so please reach out with any questions about your electric service or bills – we're here to help.

Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2020 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 2 via telephone conference to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2020 annual meeting of members to be held Aug. 12 at The Crossing in Macomb.

District 1 – (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Chris Trennepohl, 11346 E 1000th St, Macomb.

District 2 – (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County): Dave Nissen, 4340 E 1050th St, Macomb. 7215B2-112B

District 3 – (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the West half of Chalmers Townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County): Ned Null, 1237 N 1600th Rd, Blandinsville.

District 4 – (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett Townships in McDonough County): Matt Housewright, 301 Flint Rd, Macomb and Jay Cremer, 1 Indian Trail, Macomb.

District 5 – (composed of the East half of Scotland and all New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County and part of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County): Wanda Carson, 14085 E 2000th St, Macomb.

District 6 – (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City Townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): Harlan (Toby) Baker, 13195 N 2300th Rd, Good Hope and Tim Piper, 15401 E 1750th St, Macomb.

District 7 – (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Jim Grant, 497 20th Ave, Roseville.

District 8 – (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): Frank Kane, 706 26th St., Roseville.

District 9 – (composed of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd and Berwick Townships in Warren County and parts of Galesburg, Cedar and Indian Point Townships in Knox County): Robert Sullivan, 665 130th St, Roseville and Jeff Emerick, 1040 175th St, Abingdon.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the Board of Directors may be made by (1) the Nominating Committee or, (2) a petition signed by 15 or more active members, the petition must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

The terms of directors from Districts 4, 6 and 9 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our Board of Directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; District 5, Steven L. Lynn; District 6, Jeffrey N. Moore; District 7, Steve Hall; District 8, Robert Dwyer; and District 9, Steven Youngquist.


It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than 120 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected and one member from each of the other districts served by the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on such committee.

The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least thirty days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least thirty days before the meeting.

Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.



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.

I hit a power pole or other electrical equipment. Now what?



We all think it will never happen to us, but it can in an instant – and happens more often than you think. We get many calls.

Drivers veer off the road and run into power poles. Farmers sometimes contact a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life. Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified. 6326AA13-750C

If you hit a utility pole, pad-mounted transformer (green box) or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle. Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait for utility crews to come to de-energize power. Call 9-1-1 in all of these instances:

- Your tractor or car strikes a guy wire (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility

poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground or otherwise damaged, it could become energized.

- Your car hit a patch of ice, went off the road and hit a utility pole. Or you are in a car accident and one of the vehicles strikes a power pole. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, this is called step potential and it can electrocute you.
- You see an accident that involves a downed power line. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a pad-mounted transformer

or other type of electrical box.

- Your vehicle hits a substation.
- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

Other situations

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device): Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids or anyone climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.

You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and kill a lineworker or neighbor.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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\$12 per year per member, but adds up in a big way.

Recipients of the latest round of Operation Round-Up funding include:

Warren Achievement Center in Monmouth received \$2,500 for their Achiever Medical Fund.

Western Illinois Regional Council received \$1,000 toward a technology

upgrade for their new location.

Mosaic received \$2,000 toward a much-needed bathroom remodel in one of their group homes.

Thanks to you Operation Round-Up has provided nearly \$110,000 in grants since 2016! Why is this commitment to community so important to us? We know that everyone benefits from a stronger

community. Helping our neighbors is part of what McDonough Power has always been. As a member, you can take pride in that.

For more details on the Operation Round-Up program visit us online at www.mcdonoughpower.com. The next round of funding is set for July; the application deadline is Monday, July 6.