

## President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

## 2020 Annual Meeting pushed back

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the state of Illinois stay-at-home order we are all experiencing, the Spoon River Electric board of directors decided to push the date of our annual meeting. Normally, the meeting is held the first Thursday of June, this year it'll be the first Thursday of September.

Business will be conducted at usual, with a few minor changes. The scholarship applicants will be contacted sometime after the scholarship due date with further instructions. We hope to see everyone come September!

### A few takeaways as to why we'd like to see you at YOUR annual Meeting:

Spoon River Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that's you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sept. 10 with a meal starting at 5 p.m. and the business meeting at 7 p.m. at Farmington Central High School in Farmington.



# 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



## SUMMER ENERGY-SAVINGS WORD SEARCH



When you save energy at home, you're helping your family save money and protecting our environment.

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

- Close blinds and **curtains** on hot, sunny days to block additional heat from entering your home.
- Turn off lights and **electronics**, like TVs and stereos, when you leave a room.
- Turn off the **water** while you brush your teeth.
- Only clean full loads of dishes when you run the **dishwasher**.
- Cooking with smaller appliances like **slow cookers** and toaster ovens use less energy than larger appliances.
- Unplug **phone chargers** when they're not in use – they consume energy even when they aren't charging devices.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



# \$4,500 donated to local food pantries through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round-Up

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round-Up committee recently donated \$4,500 to nine local food pantries within our service territory. Pantries include the Abingdon Community Food Bank, Cuba Food Pantry, 1st Baptist Church of Canton Food Pantry, Galesburg Rescue Mission Food Bank, Illini Bluffs Food Pantry, Knoxville Community Food Bank, Maquon Community Food Bank, the Salvation Army Canton Food Pantry and St. Mary's of Canton Food Pantry.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of Illinois Stay-at-Home order, the Operation Round-Up committee unfortunately wasn't able to meet with any of the local agencies this quarter. We look forward to getting back out in our communities in the near future!

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 funds collected are donated back into our



communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6 - \$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit

our website [srecoop.org](http://srecoop.org) under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

**\*Important note: all food pantries in our service territory were contacted.**

## Happy Father's Day on June 21st.

**With your elbow  
grease and worn  
out boots, you never  
failed to put us first.**



# "Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam"

## Farmer and rancher safety

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job, and because of long days and tiring work, here are some reminders about electrical dangers on the farm or ranch.

### Overhead power lines

If you contact a power line, guy wire, utility pole, electrical box or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop or shuffle away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you go.

### Determine proper clearance

Contact us to measure power line heights; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest height of the equipment. Keep in mind that due to wear, age and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

### Always dig safely

Whether installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 8-1-1 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power and other lines are, don't rely on your

memory. Get all utilities marked so you know for sure. Utility locators do not mark private lines.

### Use standby generators with care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch. Once you properly engage the switch, it stops your farm's

generated power from entering utility lines. This is called backfeeding, which can electrocute lineworkers who are working to restore power.



## Call us before moving or adding a grain bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with specific requirements. The requirements are in place to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with power lines. If you plan to build a new grain bin or remodel an area that already has one, contact Spoon River Electric Cooperative at 309-647-2700. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line.

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