



*Mike Smith*  
President and CEO

## 2020 Annual Meeting CANCELLED

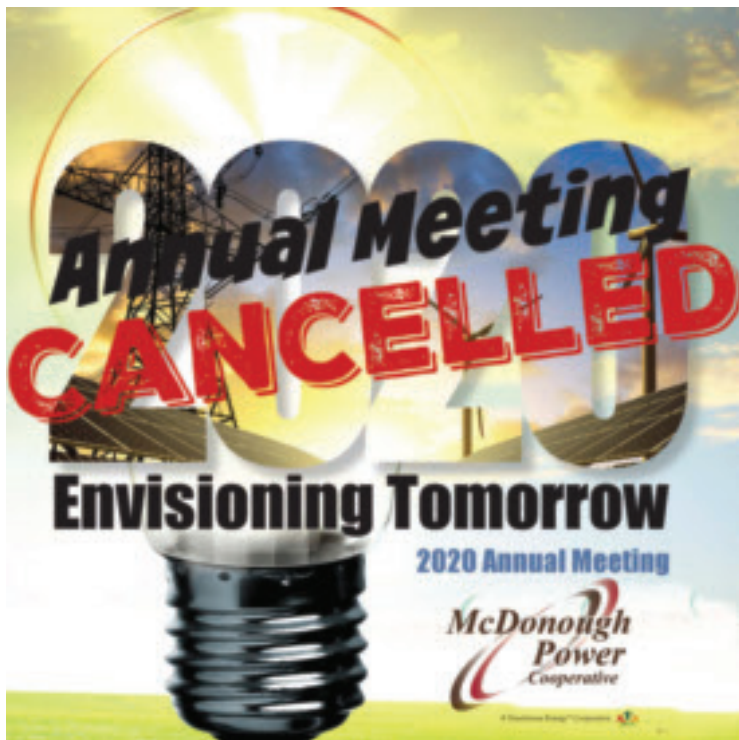
McDonough Power Cooperative's board of directors has made the decision to cancel the cooperative's annual meeting scheduled for Aug. 12.

The Centers for Disease Control's approach to slowing the transmission of COVID-19 includes minimizing social contact and canceling mass gatherings. With that in mind, McDonough Power's board of directors and management have decided that canceling the annual gathering of several hundred members and guests is prudent in helping to slow the transmission of the virus and for the safety of everyone involved.

While we are heartbroken over the reason for our annual meeting cancellation, we want to assure you that our priorities in serving our members and community remain. 5412A8-270C

"Our concern for our community extends to the overall health and welfare of our members," said Mike Smith, president/CEO. "We are deeply saddened to have to cancel the annual meeting for the first time in our cooperative utility's history. It's a tradition we value and cherish."

As you may know, the McDonough Power Cooperative Annual Meeting is



a time when we gather to celebrate the successes of the past year and look toward the future. Normally at this meeting, three members are elected to the board of directors by the membership of the cooperative. While we're not able to be together this year, that election will be combined with the election at the 2021 meeting.

We believe it's important for you to have access to our financial condition, plans for the future, and more, so be on the lookout for the Annual Report in your mailbox.

It is our hope that we can gather again in August 2021. Our community is strong, and together we will get through this.



4TH OF JULY

**UNITED  
STATES**

**OFFICE CLOSED  
JULY 3 TO OBSERVE  
INDEPENDENCE DAY**



# We may be sending you a check – that’s the Cooperative Difference

1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Macomb, Illinois  
61455-0352  
  
309-833-2101  
  
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
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



Only your local electric cooperative makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. As a member-owner, you share in the profits in the form of capital credit refunds.

Capital credits are earned by each of our members every year we earn more revenue from our members than was needed to run the cooperative and provide service. That excess revenue, or margins, become capital credits allocated to the membership after an auditing firm completes an audit of our finances. 7421B7-606A

We maintain records of all the capital credits earned by each member. The capital credits stay with us for a time before being returned to our members. They are an investment by our membership into our long-term operation and are what

enables us to operate and pay for our day-to-day operations. 11235C8A-1050C

Each year, your board of directors looks at our overall financial health and determines what portion of credits to return to the membership. This year, they voted

to return \$428,105, which pays out the remainder of credits earned by members in

1993, all of 1994 and a portion of what was earned in 1995. We've returned over \$3.7 million in capital credits to our members in the past 10 years!

If you were a member who received service from us in 1993, 1994 or 1995 you should receive your capital credit refund check in August.

We want to be able to return capital credits to every member, so please give us your address when you move away. For more information on capital credits, visit [mcdonoughpower.com](http://mcdonoughpower.com), email [member-services@mcdonoughpower.com](mailto:member-services@mcdonoughpower.com) or call 309-833-2101.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

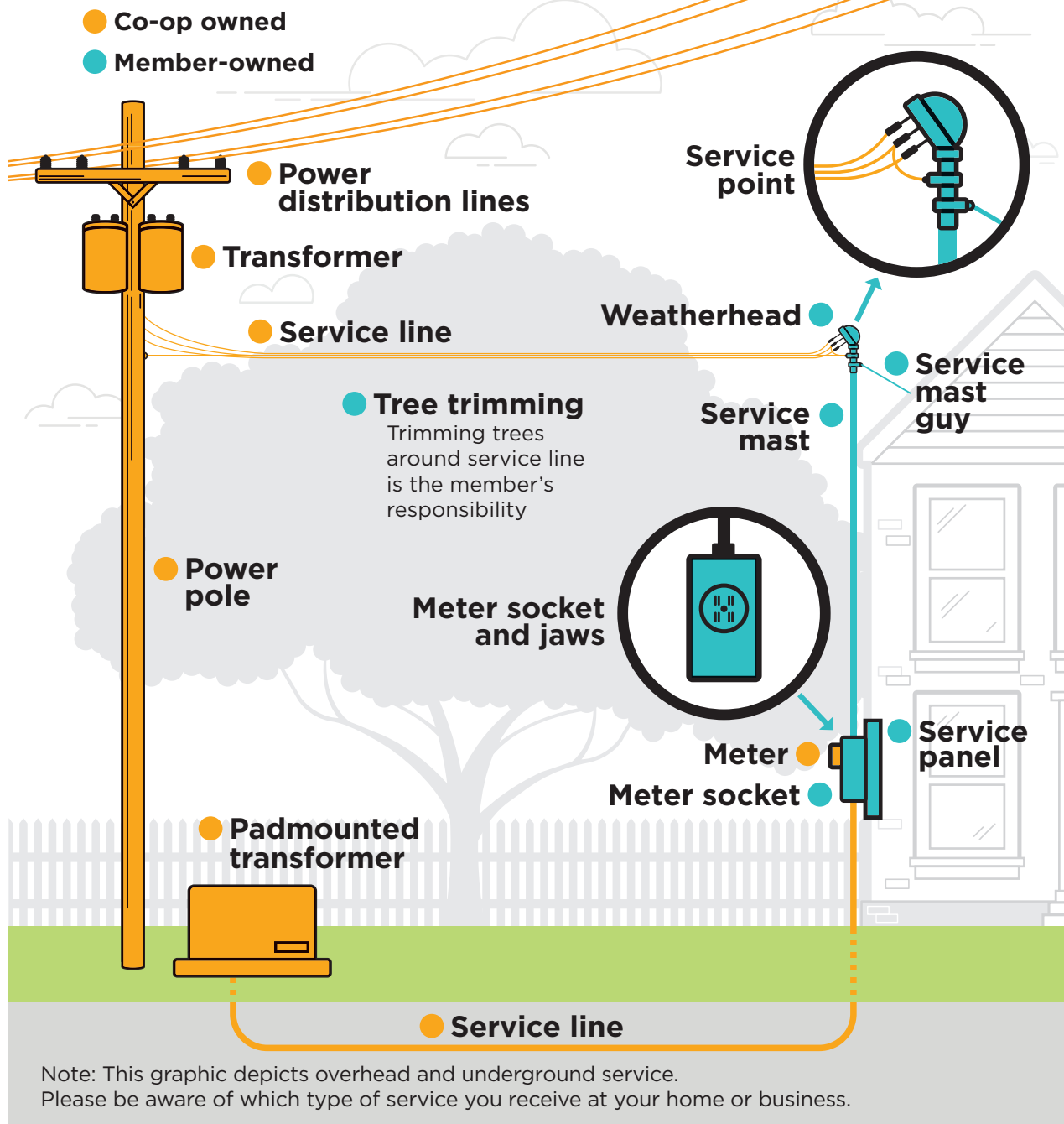
Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter “home energy yardstick” in the search box to get started!



# Who Owns What?

## Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



# BE SMART around electricity inside your home

Many safety hazards are obvious and can be seen, smelled or heard: that wrinkled rug you could trip on, spoiled food that could make you sick, icy pavement that could cause a fall or a weather siren announcing a tornado. Electrical hazards, however, are often undetectable. While some you can see, smell or feel (outlets that are warm to the touch or lights that flicker), many others you cannot. **McDonough Power and Safe Electricity** offer these electrical safety tips to keep in mind in your home. **5323A4-956C**

**Cell phones make strange bedfellows.** Don't sleep or lounge in bed with a charging cell phone or other device. This can cause burns to skin or bedding to ignite. This also goes for devices that are warm to the touch but not plugged in.

**Do not use cheap chargers.** Instead, use the original charging components that came with cell phones or other electronics. When it's time to replace them, spend extra to buy brand-specific chargers. Using cheaply made generic chargers with electronics can cause injury (shock/burns) or even fire.

**Charging devices and water don't mix.** Do not use a charging cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into the bathtub.

**Do not overload outlets or circuits.** It's tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or circuit but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring. It could also start a fire. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but that's never guaranteed.

**Do not use portable heaters unattended** or around small children or pets. Do not place flammable items near on a space heater.

**Ditch that old electric blanket.** Do not use a 10-year-old electric blanket, one that has frayed or visible wires in the blanket, or one that has a damaged electrical cord or plug.

**Test your GFCI buttons monthly.** Put a reminder in your phone or mark it on your calendar each month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working.

**Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home.** If lights flicker, outlets are warm or you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where it's coming from, there may be problems with your home's electricals. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, have a qualified electrician assess your home's electrical system.

**Is your home AFCI protected?** AFCI stands for arc fault circuit interrupter, and when there is an arc fault, it means an electrical source in your home is malfunctioning. When that happens, an arc (intense heat or light) can be discharged. Because of that, AFCIs are required by National Electric Code to help prevent home fires. Have a professional electrician assess your home to make sure AFCIs are installed, especially in an older home. He or she can also inspect your

older home's wiring to make sure it can handle today's electrical demands.

**Babyproof and childproof your home.** There are many electrical dangers that toddlers and children can tamper with, such as exposed outlets, accessible power strips and surge protectors, and hanging or dangling cords. Additionally, little ones like to imitate you, and there have been reports of toddlers trying to plug in the wrong end of a phone charger into the outlet, which can cause severe shocks or burns. Be aware of potential electrical dangers throughout the home. Get down on the floor and see what's at eye level or within reach.

Tamper-resistant outlets became part of the National Electric Code in 2008, but many homes built before that year do not have them. Make sure all outlets are covered (with a plastic plug, for example) so small children cannot insert foreign objects into the slots.

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

FOR MORE TIPS, VISIT [SAFELECTRICITY.ORG](http://SAFELECTRICITY.ORG)



## Cell phones don't belong in bed

Do not sleep or lounge with a charging cell phone or other device. You could burn your skin or it set bedding on fire.

## Don't overload outlets

It's tempting to plug several cords on one circuit, but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring and may start a fire.



## Pay attention to flickering lights

Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home. Flickering lights, warm or discolored outlets, frequently tripped circuits or fuses, or smoky odors may mean you have a problem. Consult a qualified electrician.

