

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO



Audry Branson



Colby Rossman

Scholarships awarded to three member-students

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a lot of changes and challenges to our area this year – one of them being the cancellation of the 2020 Spoon River Electric Annual Meeting of Members. Although that physical meeting was canceled, the board of directors and the Scott Parish Memorial elected to go ahead and award three \$1,000 scholarships to area member-students.

This year, we received a record-breaking amount of scholarship applications at 18. The scholarship committee did not have an easy time narrowing it down. Out of the 18, six were interviewed.

Faith Haley of Canton was awarded the Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000. In the fall, Faith will attend Spoon River College with aspirations of being an elementary education teacher. Audry Branson of Ipava was awarded



Faith Haley

the Spoon River Electric Scholastic Scholarship of \$1,000. Audry will attend Western Illinois University to study biology and then go on to optometry school. The Spoon River Electric Honorary Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Colby Rossman of Gilson. Colby will attend Notre Dame in the fall with a focus in the chemistry and biology fields with the goal of attending medical school.

Spoon River Electric couldn't be more proud of the three scholarship recipients. We wish them the best of luck with their future!

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

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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

POWER RESTORATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK



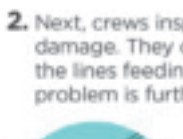
When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about the steps of power restoration. Use the word bank if you need help, and check your work in the answer key.

Word Bank:

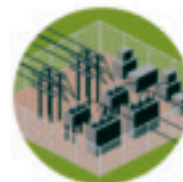
distribution pads transformer substations transmission



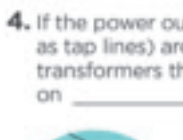
1. High-voltage _____ lines are the large towers and cables that supply power to the greatest number of consumer-members. They rarely fail, but if they do, they have to be repaired first.



2. Next, crews inspect distribution _____ for damage. They determine if the problem stems from the lines feeding into the equipment itself, or if the problem is further down the line.



3. If the problem still can't be pinpointed, _____ power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.



4. If the power outage persists, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on _____ for underground electric service.



5. If your home remains without power, the service line between the _____ and your home may need repairs.

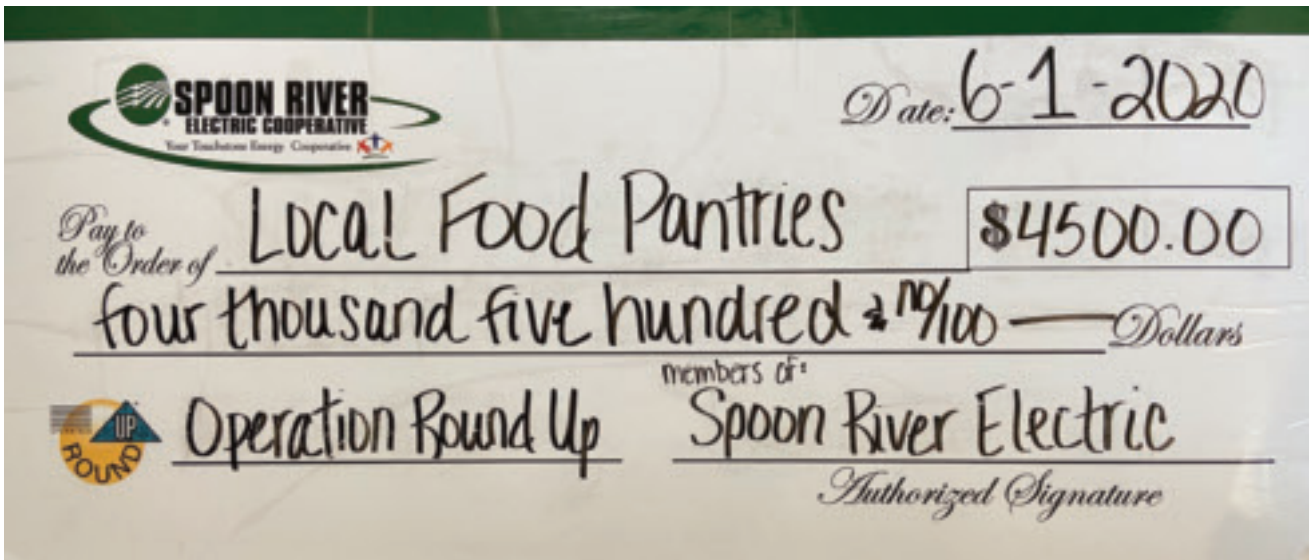
Answer Key: 1) transmission 2) substations 3) distribution 4) pads 5) transformer

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov





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

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round-Up Committee donated \$4,500 to nine local food pantries and organizations within our service territory this past June. Pantries donated to include the Abingdon Community Food Bank, Cuba Food Pantry, 1st Baptist Church of Canton Food Pantry, Galesburg Rescue Mission Food Bank, Knoxville Community Food Bank, St. Mary's of Canton Food Pantry, the Canton YWCA, Feed My Lambs Mission, and the Schuyler County Community

Center Summer Food Program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Operation Round-Up Committee unfortunately couldn't meet with any of the local agencies again 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 the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6 to \$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website: srecoop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

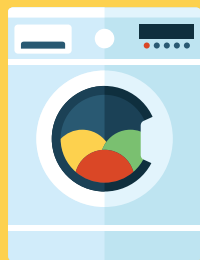
**Important note: all food pantries in our service territory were contacted.*

Utility Staking/GIS Engineer

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is seeking a Utility Staking/GIS Engineer. The ideal candidate will be proficient with ArcGIS and Geometric Networks, possess strong communication and computer software skills, have the willingness to learn the technical and electrical aspect and well organized. Willing to train the right candidate. Competitive salary and benefit package.



What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?



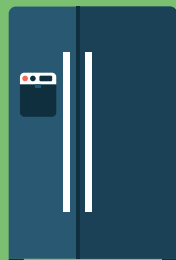
Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



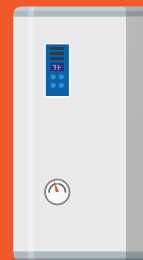
Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



Hot Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.

Do ENERGY STAR appliances really save money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

The short answer is yes, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped ENERGY STAR logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, ENERGY STAR clothes washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

And the longer answer is yes, if you consider the appliance's lifespan.



ENERGY STAR appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other ENERGY STAR-certified products, such as lighting and electronics).

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

Tip: EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

Bottom line? The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.