



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

As CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative, I care deeply about the communities we serve and want the very best for every one of our members.

But as the presidential election draws closer, I'm reminded of a troubling statistic. In the 2012 elections, voter turnout in rural communities dropped by 18 percent—twice the decline seen nationally. That means the voice of rural America isn't resonating as strongly as it should with our elected leaders and political candidates, and that the issues so important to us may not be front and center for them.

Fortunately, we have the power to turn this around. **533B8A-266B**

Together, we can boost voter engagement and turnout on Election Day by doing something I'm asking all my employees, friends and family to do—and which I'm hoping you will do, too: Take the pledge to become a “Co-op Voter,” and be sure to cast your vote on November 8.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization that represents the nation's

more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. The goal is to encourage co-op employees and members like you to get out and vote and to inform members and candidates about the issues that matter to co-ops and rural communities: from the continued need for affordable and reliable electricity, to broadband access and other rural economic development issues.

So, here's what I'm asking you to do. Visit the Co-ops Vote web site at www.vote.coop and take the quick and easy pledge to become a Co-op Voter. By doing so, you'll be joining co-op members across the country in sending a powerful message: America's electric cooperatives are voting in 2016 and expect our elected leaders to address the issues facing co-ops and rural communities.

With 42 million members in 47 states, electric co-ops can stand together as a powerful voice in this year's elections. I hope you'll join me in taking the pledge and going to the polls in November.





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



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



Ten 2017 Memorial Scholarships Available

The Illinois electric cooperatives in 2017 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2017 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **5332B7-1212C**

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Cooperative from 1949 until 1991.

He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says McDonough Power CEO Mike Smith. “McDonough Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our commu-



nities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

Scholarship information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at mcdonoughpower.com.

Moore Named Board Chairman

Jeff Moore, former vice chairman of the board, was recently elected to serve as chairman. Moore follows previous board chair Steve Lynn, who served in that role for four years. Lynn remains on the board as a director. **432B2-572A**

Jeff was raised on a farm northeast of Good Hope in a Cooperative family. His grandmother, Blanch Noper, was a board member as was his father, Kenneth. He recently received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board

Leadership Certificate.

Directors who have attained the Board Leadership Certificate have completed core courses in the following areas, which advance the knowledge and experience needed to effectively govern the board: director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships,



strategic planning, financial decision making, as well as a number of advanced, issues-oriented courses.

During the reorganization of the board, Walt Lewis was named vice chairman and Steve Youngquist and David Lueck will continue serving as secretary and treasurer respectively.



Operation Round-Up

Thank you to the members who allow their bill to round up for the benefit of the Operation Round-Up program. Operation Round-Up is having a favorable impact on the communities we serve and is available to eligible organizations in our service area – not just members. For further details visit mcdonoughpower.com. The next application deadline is Tuesday, January 3.

THEY'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO START SAVING ENERGY.



Find out how your local electric cooperative can help you lead by example at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig.

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging—such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts—remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will

be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or

paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority doesn't take advantage

of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners

called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811. **6315ME44-708C**

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

**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.