



Mike Smith
President and CEO



McDonough Power holds 83rd and 84th Annual Meeting of Members

Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the 2020 annual meeting, members of McDonough Power Cooperative gathered for the first time in two years for their co-op's 83rd and 84th Annual Meeting of Members held Wednesday, Aug. 25 at The Crossing in Macomb where they were provided updates on their electric cooperative.

McDonough Power's board chairman Jeff Moore welcomed the members to the meeting. "The last year and a half have been rough on all of us, and it feels good to be able to get together and have an annual meeting," he said. "While it is not a typical annual meeting given the circumstances we are facing, it does feel good to have something that feels a little normal."

Moore explained despite the challenges of COVID-19, the co-op is not only in good financial condition, but has continued to serve the members as it always has. McDonough Power personnel have continued to upgrade lines, poles and other equipment over the system to help prevent outages.

"One of our cooperative principals is Commitment to Community, and these programs help to show we are living up to that commitment," Moore said. The Operation Round-Up Program is now in its sixth year. This year alone, McDonough Power members donated more than \$17,500 to local charitable groups through the program. The co-op also participated in the Sharing Success program with CoBank, one of the co-op's lending providers. This matching grant allowed McDonough Power and CoBank to make donations to three area charities.

"It has been a difficult time for all of us, and as we heard many times, we will weather the storm together," Moore concluded.

Mike Smith, president/CEO of McDonough Power, then addressed the members. "I, like many of you, would not have envisioned at our 2019 meeting what the next couple of years would hold. To be here tonight and conduct our annual meeting is a relief." **12127B7A-1059B**

Continued on page 20b ▶



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 Hall, Secretary

David Lueck, Treasurer

Courtney Chandler

Mike Cox

Bob Dwyer

Steve Lynn

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



“Annual Meeting” continued from page 20a

Smith then discussed the pending legislation taking place in Springfield. “Governor Pritzker said early on that he wants a comprehensive energy bill passed, and there is a push to get it done. I want to explain the perspective of cooperatives, why we are so concerned with this legislation, and why we oppose any action that would force a premature closure of Prairie State Energy Campus before the end of its useful life.”

Smith said if the legislation is successful, Prairie State would shut down leaving Illinois electric co-ops without any equivalent, replacement power. Prairie State was permitted by the Obama/Biden administration to operate in 2012 and now faces closure as early as 2035.

“It sounds like a long time from now, but all the remaining debt for the plant would be moved forward which would impact our rates.”

He asked the membership to support the co-op’s effort to lobby against the legislation by going to voicesforcooperativepower.com. “I simply ask you to make your voice heard,” Smith said. **4117C3-1108B**

During the meeting, the members voted to approve the proposed cooperative bylaw amendments. The new version of the bylaws, with all proposed amendments, was printed in the co-op’s annual meeting notice.

Last year, McDonough Power did not hold an annual meeting because the bylaws only allowed for in-person meetings, and such gatherings were not safe during the

pandemic. The board proposed to add the option of holding future annual or special member meetings and director meetings in virtual, telephonic or video format. Additionally, bylaw changes clarified the definition of co-op membership and the member’s obligation to provide an easement for distribution facilities. The proposed amendments also authorized the directors to hold board meetings virtually and receive meeting notices by mail, email or another electronic format.

An election of directors also occurred. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 meeting, David Lueck, district 4, and Jeff Moore, district 6, were re-elected to complete the latter two years of three-year terms. Following the resignation of district 9 director Steve Youngquist, the members appointed Courtney Chandler to complete the remainder of the three-year term. Jerry Riggins, district 2; Steve Lynn, district 5 and Bob Dwyer, district 8, were all re-elected to three-year terms on the board.

Members attending the meeting were treated to a goody bag, in addition to a \$10 bill credit. In lieu of the meal that is traditionally served at the meeting, \$10 Macomb Area Chamber gift certificates were distributed to each registered member for use at various local businesses. Prizes were distributed to those who stayed for the duration of the business meeting and three grand prizes (\$200 bill credits) were awarded to James Babcock, William Sibley, and Mike and Daphne Thorman.



Meet Courtney Chandler – New District 9 Director

Courtney Chandler was born and raised in Warren County. He grew up in Berwick Township and graduated from Avon High School. He attended WIU for two years before leaving to farm. Prior to moving to Floyd Township in 2006, he lived in Swan Township for 18 years. Courtney has always lived in the McDonough Power Cooperative service area. He has served on the United School Board for eight years.

He married his wife, Ann, in 1989 and they have 4 children. Daughters, Augusta, who is married to Lance, and Ashton who is currently a student at Iowa State. Sons, Shelby and Wyatt farm with Courtney. They also have one granddaughter, Chandler, and a new grandchild on the way. Courtney enjoys tractor pulling.

It's a matter of (co-op!) principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and McDonough Power Cooperative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, McDonough Power was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is



run, and each voice and vote are equal. McDonough Power's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of McDonough Power. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model. **532RM25-900C**

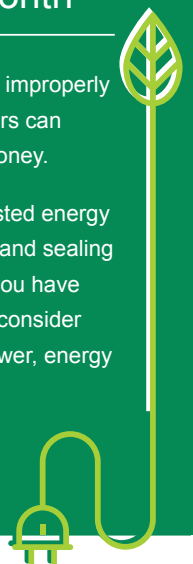
McDonough Power is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



WIRC-CAA announces start of Energy Assistance Program

The Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA), administrator of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties, is pleased to announce that grant funds are available to help income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane and electric bills, and with furnace assistance.



be applied to your utility bill as long as you make your on-time monthly utility payment. The amount of assistance you receive will be determined during your appointment. PIPP applicants will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. The program will be offered until March 31, 2022 or when WIRC-CAA has reached

the maximum capacity of households for the program. Increasing PIPP enrollment is a program goal for this year. **837C8-656A**

The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP and PIPP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household.

Propane customers are encouraged to apply when the program opens in September to take greater advantage of lower propane prices. Propane prices typically increase during the winter months, so propane users who apply early will see their LIHEAP benefit go further.

Households in need in the four-county area are encouraged to call WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 to schedule an appointment. Applications are being taken by phone until further notice.

To apply, you **MUST** submit the following documentation:

1. Proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application.
2. Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. (Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and WIRC-CAA will advise accordingly).

3. A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
4. Other documents may be needed based on household situation. If you have questions regarding this, please call WIRC-CAA.
5. A copy of rental agreement (if renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact.

Please call WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 starting on August 16, 2021 to schedule an appointment, for information on what documents are needed to apply, and to learn how to complete an application.

WIRC-CAA is a multifaceted agency that serves multiple counties in western Illinois. The Agency's Community Action Agency Department provides a wide range of social service programs for people in need, including a food pantry, clothing center, energy assistance program, and more. For more information about WIRC & CAA, visit their website at wirpc.org, find Western Illinois Regional Council & Community Action Agency on social media, or call their office at 309-837-2997.



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.