



Mike Smith
President and CEO



The Operation Round Up program is funded by members of McDonough Power Cooperative who have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The extra pennies are used to support community betterment projects. Since the initial round of funding in January 2016, the program has donated more than \$158,000 to local organizations.

The next deadline to apply for an Operation Round Up grant is July 5, 2022. For more details, visit www.mcdonoughpower.com.

Operation Round Up

Grants totaling \$8,000 were recently awarded to four area organizations



Macomb High School Fine Arts received \$1,500 toward a field trip to Chicago for the Immersive Frida Kahlo art exhibit as well as a visit to the Art Institute of Chicago. MHS Art Instructor Emily Platt says cultural exposure is a vital part of shaping well-rounded students. Much of their focus this year has been on history and how they can relate it to their own art, and she is excited to give them this unique opportunity to connect with other artists.



McDonough District Hospital Foundation was granted \$2,500 toward Project: Wear It Out. The mission for this project is to provide staple clothing items to patients who arrive via ambulance and are discharged without appropriate attire to get them home. Becky Paulsen MDH Foundation Vice President stated that these circumstances are occurring more frequently, and they are working to fill that void.



McDonough County 4-H Building and Grounds was granted \$2,000 to assist with providing new power to their expanded facilities. The 4-H board is attempting to expand the use of the local fairgrounds beyond the usual "livestock only" so it may be used for a variety of purposes to benefit the entire community. **10113A1A-408C**



Illowa Council Boy Scouts of America, Inali District received \$2,000 for their Cub Scout Day Camp. The Inali District (Knox, Warren, McDonough and Stark counties) works hard each year to host a week-long day camp for boys and girls kindergarten through fifth grade, and these funds will help them fund camperships so more youth are able to attend.



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www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on 

DIRECTORS

Walt Lewis, Chairman

David Lueck, Vice Chairman

Mike Cox, Treasurer

Steve Hall, Secretary

Courtney Chandler

Bob Dwyer

Steve Lynn

Jeff Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2022 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 8 in Monmouth at 6 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2022 annual meeting of members to be held Aug. 17 at The Crossing in Macomb.

District 1 – (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Brian Waller, 11238 E 1000th St, Macomb and Terry Thompson, 8495 E 1000th St, Macomb.

District 3 – (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the West half of Chalmers Townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County): Kevin Kleinkopf, 5176 N 1300th Rd, Colchester and Charles Lewis, 1240 N 1200th Rd, Blandinsville.

District 7 – (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Randy Winbigler, 952 10th Ave, Roseville and Jim Grant, 497 20th Ave, Roseville. **6328FH8-228B**

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the Board of Directors may be made by (1) the Nominating Committee or, (2) a petition signed by 15 or more active members, the petition must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

The terms of directors from Districts 1, 3 and 7 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our Board of Directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; District 5, Steven L. Lynn; District 6, Jeffrey N. Moore; District 7, Steve Hall; District 8, Robert Dwyer; and District 9, Courtney Chandler.

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than 120 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on

nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting.

Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.

Save the
DATE

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, August 17 at
The Crossing Macomb

SHE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT



Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house when a storm turned from average to angry.

The storm was not a problem during the first part of her drive, and she assumed it would stay that way during the half-hour ride home. "I've never really been afraid to drive in storms; I'm pretty good with them," she explained. "I've always been fascinated with thunder and lightning." **7227B3-104A**

Unbeknownst to Mary, a stronger, more violent storm was about to erupt, and conditions grew worse than anyone had anticipated. The typically familiar and uneventful drive was neither of those things that June night.

Strong rotations formed and their herculean strength folded several metal transmission towers in half. Around 15 to 20 minutes into the drive, Mary's knuckles gripped the wheel as she struggled to see in front of her. During lightning flashes, she saw little white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that

those lines were across the road, in her path, and that they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

What happened next was life-changing — but in a good way. Mary picked up her phone and called her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, not get out of the car, and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related equipment:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting the vehicle is a last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

Before you jump in: Consider potential electrical hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps required to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect of owning a hot tub or pool that is often not top of mind for homeowners is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard.

Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines.

To keep swimmers and hot tubbers as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code by a licensed contractor. Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water. Electrical safety also includes:

- Making sure ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed:

- On underwater lighting circuits operating at 15 volts or more.
- On all electrical equipment, including 120- and 240-volt heaters close to the pool.
- On all outdoor receptacles (outlets) within 20 feet of the water's edge.
- Testing permanently installed GFCIs monthly. Test those that are portable or connected to a cord before each use.
- Looking for signs of mold or other growth on the inside lenses of lights, which can indicate water leakage.
- Ensuring that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are clearly marked and easily accessible in an emergency.
- Labeling power switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, as well as lighting.
- Using battery-operated electronics whenever possible.
- Ensuring that hands and feet are dry while using electrical devices.
- Keeping long-handled tools and poles away from nearby power lines, including the drop-down lines to your home. **6414D2-226B**
- Holding pool skimmers and other long-handled tools as low as possible to the ground.
- Keeping electrical cords, wires and

devices out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water.

- Unplugging a device that has fallen into the water before touching it. Even submersible pumps designed to run under water may not be safe to use when someone is in the water.

What to look for

Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or may not be able to move. You may see panic behavior by others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly. You might also hear complaints of tingling or other odd sensations.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder; touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power. If the power is not turned off, rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 911, or have someone else make the call.

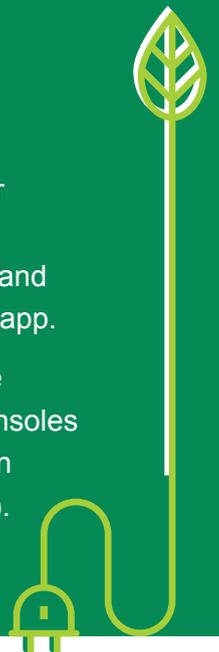
For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



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.