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The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Walt Lewis
Chairman of the Board



Annual Meeting 2022 Celebrating our 85th birthday

It is an honor and privilege for me to invite you, on behalf of the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors, to attend the 85th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at The Crossing in Macomb on Wednesday, August 17, 2022; doors will open at 5 p.m.

McDonough Power Cooperative is owned by the members it serves. The Annual Meeting provides our member-owners the opportunity to hear about the cooperative's growth, financial status, and topics that could affect the organization's future. **8120SL41-864C** The Annual Meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent

you, the member-owners of the cooperative. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of directors, you help set the future direction of your cooperative. We will be serving a porkchop sandwich dinner and entertainment will be provided by Aaron Lee, in addition to fun and door prizes. Members who register will receive a \$10 bill credit as well as a gift. If you've never attended our annual meeting, or it has been a while, please mark your calendars to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Walt Lewis
Chairman of the Board

McDonough Power Cooperative 85th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 17 at
The Crossing in Macomb

Doors open at 5 p.m.
Business meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy





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24 hour pay-by-phone
844-405-1145

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

All Co-op Electric
Outages 309-837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.



3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

For information about safety around electricity, **6316D8A-212B** including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

CoBank Sharing Success

Four charitable organizations were each awarded a \$5,000 “Sharing Success” grant by McDonough Power Cooperative and CoBank.

The recipients of the grants are Birthright of Macomb, McDonough County 4-H Foundation, Warren County 4-H Foundation and McDonough Power Cooperative Cares. “We believe these grants will help support the mission of these organizations that are so vital in the communities we serve,” says Walt Lewis, chair of McDonough Power’s board of directors. 532RM24-900C “It’s important to us to reach out and assist our neighbors in need. Caring for Community is one of the cooperative’s seven principles, and we are so happy to partner with CoBank in this program.”

“Sharing Success” is a matching grant program created by CoBank in 2012. The cooperative bank partners with its

customers, like McDonough Power, to support the causes and organizations they care about. CoBank customers can apply for matching grants each year. This year, McDonough Power awarded \$2,500 to each recipient and CoBank matched the funds. A total of \$5,000 went to each organization.

Birthright of Macomb has been active in the Macomb community and surrounding area for over 48 years. They are an all-volunteer, non-profit, pregnancy center dedicated to giving positive and loving support to pregnant women and new mothers and their babies. Their grant will help fund the purchase of infant car seats, baby cribs and mattresses, newborn clothing, and baby supplies – diapers, formula, soap, etc.

The McDonough County and Warren County 4-H Foundation’s empower and prepare all youth for success by providing opportunities to build the skills

they’ll need to be successful – at home, school, and in the community while they explore amazing career opportunities. Funds granted to the foundations will help provide financial assistance to youth who otherwise would be financially unable to participate in 4-H programs and activities.

McDonough Power Cooperative Cares Coats for Kids program has been providing brand new, warm winter coats to children throughout the Co-op service territory since 2006. Grant funds will help provide nearly 225 of the 300 coats that are distributed to schools each year.

With the help of CoBank’s Sharing Success Program, we are improving the quality of life in the communities we serve. We often forget how fortunate we are and it’s truly a privilege to share our goodwill with others who genuinely need it.



Birthright of Macomb



Warren County 4-H Foundation



McDonough County 4-H Foundation

Capital credit allocation and retirement

An added benefit of your McDonough Power Cooperative membership.

McDonough Power is a not-for-profit member-owned utility. So rather than earning profits, the cooperative invests a portion of that money toward strengthening the operations that power your life and assigns the rest to you. These funds are called capital credits and they are allocated back to our member-owners based on how much electricity each member purchased during the year.

The 2021 capital credit allocation was processed in July 2022, after the 2021 financial statements were reviewed and audited. The 2021 capital credit allocation notice for active members will be printed on the bill received in August. Inactive members with 2021 electricity billings were mailed a separate allocation notice.

The capital credits (margins) allocated to members' accounts for 2021 totals \$1,320,822. **11122D8-1012B**

The allocation represents an amount that will be paid in the future. The McDonough Power board reviews capital credits each year and decides how and when to repay the amounts allocated. Their decision is based on a variety of factors including the overall financial condition of the cooperative.

Capital credit retirement

The board also approved the retirement of \$477,052 in capital credits to current and former McDonough Power members based on the amount they were billed during previous years.

A retirement means we will be sending out money! Checks will be mailed in August to members who had service with us in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact our office at 309-833-2101 or visit us online at mcdonoughpower.com.

McDonough Power to sponsor the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives hot air balloon at Macomb Balloon Rally

Everyone is invited to join the festivities

On Sept. 9 and 10, the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon and experienced pilot will make a special appearance at the 35th annual Macomb Balloon Rally courtesy of McDonough Power Cooperative. We are excited to host the balloon and we invite everyone to take part in the fun.

While we have not yet seen the schedule for the balloon rally, here is what you can expect – all weather dependent of course. Traditionally 20-plus balloons fill the sky over Macomb on Friday evening as well as Saturday morning. Saturday evening the balloons launch again and typically fly into Vince Grady Field on the campus of Western Illinois University where all the festivities commence. You can expect food vendors and live music while the balloons glow on the field throughout the evening – a fun event for the entire family!

Kelly Hamm, McDonough Power Energy Services Manager, states, “We have not hosted the Touchstone Energy balloon in Macomb in well over a decade and look forward to creating a little excitement and spreading goodwill for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.”

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Program is the second longest running national balloon program. There are multiple balloons in the fleet that travel throughout the U.S. Balloons are as large as 77,000 cubic feet and stand over 77 feet tall and are 60 feet wide when inflated. They carry a pilot and two average size passengers. The balloon program has been involved in over 650 balloon events, festivals and annual meetings. Since 1999, the hot air balloon program has demonstrated its commitment to community by giving more than \$320,000 back to local communities in philanthropic donations.



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.