



**Mike Smith**  
President and CEO

## Preparing to serve you better

**P**roviding reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for McDonough Power Cooperative. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and

the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do, too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace and repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables McDonough Power to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

### Planned outages improve reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, McDonough Power can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest details.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow McDonough Power Cooperative on social media so you can learn about the 525HHS52-951A latest co-op updates.

## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

**Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.**

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!**





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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

## Operation Round-Up grants to local organizations



McDonough Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up grants totaling \$6,000 were recently awarded to three local organizations.

**Macomb High School** Climate and Culture Team received \$2,000 towards their Black History Month Celebration. The team initiative is to educate the student body, grades 4-12, about various demographics that make up the school population. **Youth for Christ-Western Illinois** was granted \$2,000 towards the cost of providing a free pancake breakfast. The organization serves breakfast to



more than 100 Macomb High teens on late-start school days. **First Presbyterian Church of Macomb** was granted \$2,000 for the Giving Gardens. The gardens provide vegetables, herbs, berries and flowers to the community. Funds will be utilized to purchase key tools, equipment and physical infrastructure.

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. To date, the program has donated nearly \$184,000 to local organizations. Operation Round-Up is designed to 316C9-1112A provide financial assistance to local school programs, philanthropic groups, nonprofit organizations, rescue squads, volunteer fire departments and other deserving causes that benefit members within McDonough Power's service area. Those with a worthy cause are encouraged to apply. The next application deadline is July 3, 2023. For more details, visit [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).



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**McDonough Power Cooperative  
Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023



## Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2023 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 7 in Macomb at 6 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2023 annual meeting of members to be held Aug. 9 at The Crossing in Macomb.

- District 4 – (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett townships in McDonough County): Jay Cremer, 1 Indian Trail, Macomb, and Matt Housewright, 301 Flint Road, Macomb.
- District 6 – (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): Brian or Jean Davenport, 16120 E. 1700th St., Macomb, and Kathy Torrance, 15055 N. 2000th Road, Bushnell.
- District 9 – (composed of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd and Berwick townships in Warren County and parts of Galesburg, Cedar and Indian Point townships in Knox County): Chester Stephens, 1505 90th Ave., Berwick and John Johnson, 772 147th St., Avon.

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 **1015B3-1002A** annual meeting.

The terms of directors from districts 4, 6 and 9 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.

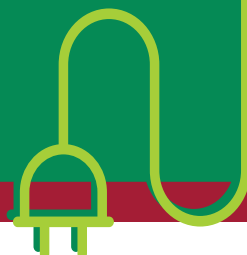
Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition, and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Every month we feature 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.

# Lobbying nationally and locally

**M**cDonough Power Cooperative sent two representatives to the 2023 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., April 16-19. The purpose of McDonough Power's attendance was to meet with federally elected officials and staff to encourage support for several key issues facing electric cooperatives today. McDonough Power President and CEO Mike Smith and District 1 Director Mike Cox joined more than 2,000 fellow cooperative attendees who gathered to effect a positive impact for the energy industry through information and education.

In meetings held with U.S. representatives, senators and staff, electric cooperative delegates took time to introduce, clarify and recommend remedies to mitigate burdens experienced by McDonough Power and other cooperatives. The co-ops called for action to improve several primary concerns when meeting with elected officials.

## Supply chain challenges

Having ample supplies and equipment on hand is crucial for electric cooperatives. Maintaining service, restoring power after natural disasters and sustaining the growing demand for electricity are paramount to consumer members. In recent years, stocking vital inventory at a reasonable price has been

challenging. Compounding the uncertainty surrounding supply costs and availability are labor and raw material shortages. These pressures create an over-reliance on producers from outside the U.S.

## Prioritize reliability

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. Our nation's energy policies must meet this fundamental expectation. Electrification of the economy, the



disorderly retirement of existing generation, permitting challenges, supply chain shortages and the availability of natural gas all impact the reliability of the electric grid. Electric cooperatives are working towards meaningful solutions to address the reliability challenges spreading across the nation. Policymakers should recognize the need for time, technology development and new transmission infrastructure while supporting policies that are inclusive of all energy sources.

Locally, more than 50 electric cooperative leaders from across the state of Illinois convened at the State Capitol in Springfield on May 2 for Electric Cooperative Lobby Day, **532RM421-900C** sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. President and CEO Mike Smith, Energy Services Manager Kelly Hamm and District 2 Director Jerry Riggins represented McDonough Power.

Electric cooperatives have made long-term investments in Illinois generation resources to supply our member-consumers with safe, affordable and reliable power, creating jobs and stimulating local economies. With the mission to fly the co-op flag and build important relationships with local legislators, co-op representatives discussed various pieces of legislation currently being debated in Springfield, sharing how those proposals could impact cooperatives and their members. They also invited legislators to attend the upcoming annual meeting and visit the cooperative to tour the facilities and meet the employees.

Electric cooperatives provide power to millions of Americans, and we at McDonough Power Cooperative are committed to member satisfaction in the communities we serve. With the support of our elected officials, electric cooperatives will continue to thrive in our state and in our nation.

