

Co-op Power: Reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Contents

Getting to know	16b
Membership matters	16c
Check out Kill A Watt.....	16d

At Spoon River Electric Cooperative, we have three top priorities: to provide you safe, reliable access to electric power; offer that service as affordably as possible; and do both of those things in a fiscally and environmentally responsible fashion.

Because our cooperative is a not-for-profit enterprise — which means your money stays local; we don't have to worry about distant shareholders — we are well-positioned to make any necessary investments for ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. However, fulfilling our commitment to environmental stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner has become more challenging. Today, many environmental laws that were adopted by Congress decades ago are being used by federal agencies and the courts to address issues for which they were never intended.

For example, the federal Clean Air Act is now 40 years old and was last amended in 1990 — more than two decades ago. Much has changed in the intervening years, including technology, our understanding of the environment, and the electric utility industry.

Today, officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency often under court order — are trying to modify the Clean

Air Act to fit new circumstances. Without a doubt, new EPA rules being issued will wind up back in the courts and lengthy litigation will ensue.

Reasonable people can and will disagree over how to find a balance between protecting the environment, guaranteeing a reliable supply of power, and keeping electric bills affordable. Under the right circumstances, Congress eventually will have to revisit the Clean



Air Act and update it to fit the needs of the 21st century. In the meantime, Spoon River Electric Cooperative will keep you updated on our efforts to encourage lawmakers and regulators to strike the proper balance on these concerns.

New payment program

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is offering a new payment program for some members who are unable to pay their bills by the 21st of each month. Eligible members can call the office to sign up at 309-647-2700 and they will be given a new due date of the 6th on the month after the bills are sent. The following members qualify for this program:

- Those on a fixed income who are over the age of 62
- Spouses and children of veterans currently serving our country
- Disabled veterans
- Members whose only source of personal income is Supplemental Security Income

Getting to know Marcus Burkhead

Journeyman Line Clearance Trimmer Marcus Burkhead has been working for Spoon River Electric for 14 years. His job consists of trimming trees, spraying foliage, mowing, and cleaning up the areas where lines are located. He enjoys his job because he gets the opportunity to “meet people all over the country.” He said he’s met people from Iowa, Michigan, even New Orleans when he has assisted with storm recovery efforts.

“Every day’s a memorable moment here,” he said, and added that the best part about what he does is the chance to help people and “about 99 percent of the people appreciate it.” He also said he has been invited to share a home-cooked meal multiple times as a sign of appreciation.



The best part of his job is the people, he concluded. Not just the people he gets to help, but also the people he gets to work with, since they all get along.

... and Tanya Games



Tanya Games is the Payroll and Benefits Administrator for Spoon River Electric Cooperative. She wears many hats, since she deals with everything from processing weekly payroll, payroll taxes, new hires, retirements, various insurance plans and benefits, workers compensation, and other human resources duties.

Games started working for Spoon River Electric in 1976. She took a break from February 1980 to March 1981, returned, and has been working ever since.

Her favorite part about working for Spoon River Electric is the philosophy. “Customers aren’t customers, they’re members. We work for them,” she explained. She also has a lot of fun working with the other people in the office.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944
Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Membership matters



By Jack Clark
Chairman, Spoon River Electric
Cooperative Board of Directors

By and large, we don't get to choose who provides our electric service. Folks on opposite sides of the road may be served by different electric providers, some by a stockholder-driven investor-owned utility, others a city-owned municipal electric system. We are a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by you and your fellow members.

But there's one major difference between these entities. Every home or business that receives power from an electric cooperative — 18 million in 47 states — owns a portion of the utility. As a result, anyone who receives cooperative electric service becomes a member and consumer, not a customer. Across the nation,

electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people.

Being a member matters. Spoon River Electric Cooperative doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service — and doing so in a way that raises the quality of life in our communities. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, they have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run the business in a financially sound manner. This structure helps keep your electric bill affordable.

Membership also matters because electric co-ops care about improving the quality of life in the areas they serve. From helping local charities to working on upgrades to our county fairgrounds, Spoon River Electric Cooperative invests in the communities where you live and work.

Membership matters because it entitles you to certain benefits like college scholarships for your children. You receive this magazine because you're a member of

an electric cooperative that wants you to stay abreast of important co-op news and events. The Co-op Connections® card even gives you discounts from national chain retailers and restaurants and local stores in your community. Check out

Connections.coop to find discounts in your neighborhood.

Membership matters because you have a voice in how your co-op is governed. Through democratic control, members like you elected me and others from our co-op to serve on the board of directors. Control stays in local hands. Your board of directors, along with those

who work for your co-op, are your friends and neighbors.

Membership matters because you receive returns on your investment in your co-op. Electric co-ops aim to operate at-cost, so any excess revenues, or margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits, based on their electric use.

The bottom line: Membership matters because you matter to your electric cooperative.

From helping local charities to working on upgrades to our county fairgrounds, Spoon River Electric Cooperative invests in the communities where you live and work.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Are you paying the right rate for electricity?

Finding out is as easy as 1-2-3!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative offers special rates for members with geothermal heating and cooling systems and for members who are “all-electric” – using no natural gas or propane in their homes. If you are

a geothermal or all-electric member and want to make sure you are on the right rate, here is what you can do:

1. Call the Spoon River Electric office at (309) 647-2700.

2. If you are not on the correct rate, a Spoon River Electric employee will verify your eligibility.

3. You will be switched to the new rate if you qualify.

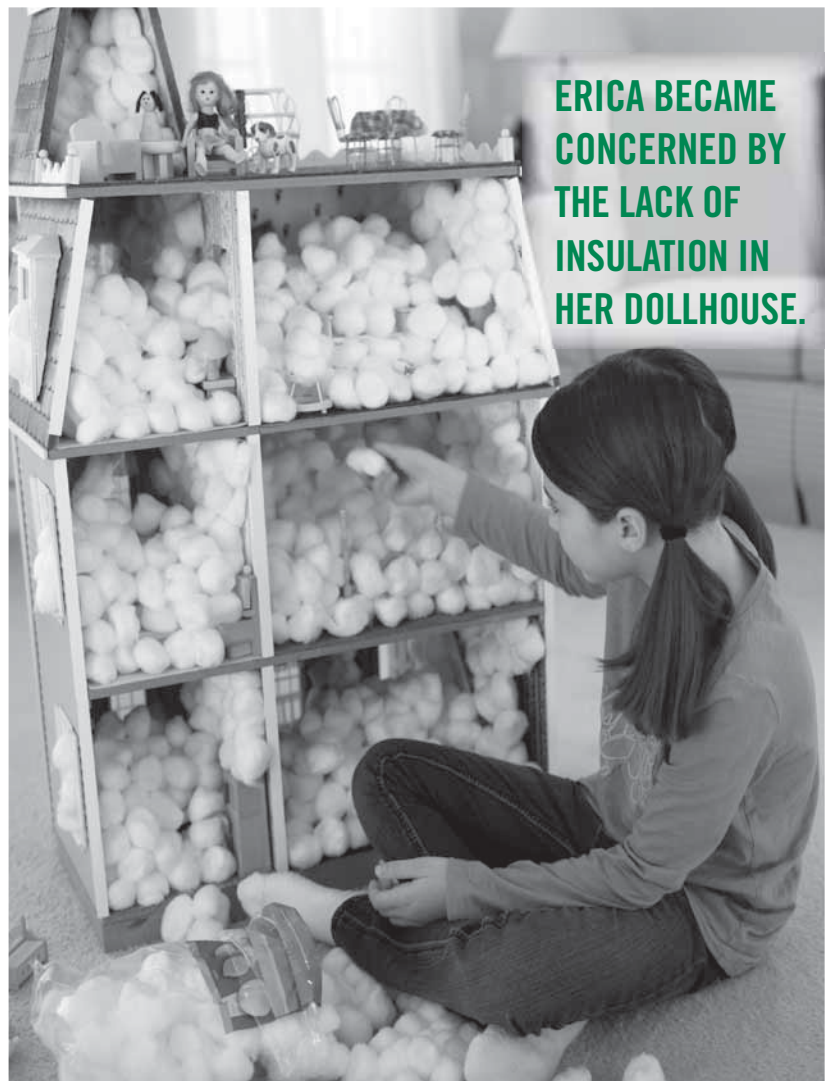
Check out a Kill A Watt

How much electricity do the appliances in your home use? Find out with the Kill A Watt. Just plug the meter into an outlet, then plug any electronic device into it. The Kill A Watt will show you how many kilowatt hours the device is using, allowing you to determine how much it costs each month on your bill.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative now has several Kill A Watts available for members to check out. Stop by the office at 930 S. Fifth Ave., Canton, or call (309) 647-2700 to learn more.



She saw her dad blow insulation into the attic to make the house more energy-efficient. Then, she got an idea. Find out how your local electric cooperative can help you lead by example at TogetherWeSave.com.



ERICA BECAME CONCERNED BY THE LACK OF INSULATION IN HER DOLLHOUSE.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM