

## Our Marching Orders: Affordable Power

### President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

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After a visit to Washington, D.C., last month, I was impressed by the long-range planning and precision of our nation's military. But no matter how prepared they might be, the military can't make a move without marching orders from the top.

It reminds me of the bind electric cooperatives are in right now. We excel at long-range planning — most of the power you use today was designed three or four decades ago. We stand at the ready with plans for new infrastructure, power plants, and innovative technologies to provide electricity for the next 30 years. But there's a problem — we're waiting on marching orders from our nation's leaders.

I was proud to join thousands of electric co-op representatives in our nation's capital this spring. We told our elected officials that now more than ever we have to plan for a safe, reliable, and affordable energy future. To get there, we need to know the rules for power

generation — and we need to know now. Rolling blackouts in Texas earlier this year reminded all of us that electricity must be used as quickly as it's produced; we don't have the technology yet to store large amounts of power to fall back on when resources like wind turbines don't work.

For our children and grandchildren's sake, we need to make some tough decisions soon — and we need to get them right.

With a flurry of proposed regulations being discussed for power plants (and more to come), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been following their own set of marching orders and deadlines set by the courts. However, what the final regulations will look like remains unclear. Co-ops need to know the rules — our marching orders — for power generation. Until the government provides more certainty, we can't enact our plans for the next three decades. As our appetite for electricity grows and threatens to outstrip

our nation's generation capacity, we need to build more power plants. But what type of facilities should they be that will make the most sense financially?

Spoon River Electric Cooperative's mission was set by you, our members, 73 years ago. You charged us to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. Where this power comes from impacts a sizable portion of your electric bill — the large majority of each dollar you pay us goes to buying wholesale power. Bucket trucks, poles and wire, right-of-way trimming, payroll, and other operating expenses are covered by the rest.

Although expensive, power plants and expanded transmission systems are an investment in a better future for all of us. We'll keep our ultimate mission at the forefront of our efforts as we work with Congress to get our marching orders and keep the lights on for the next 30 years. It's one more way we're looking out for you.

### Robert Lascelles joins Spoon River Electric Cooperative's Board

Spoon River Electric Cooperative recently welcomed Robert Lascelles as a new member of the Board of Directors. He represents the 9th District.

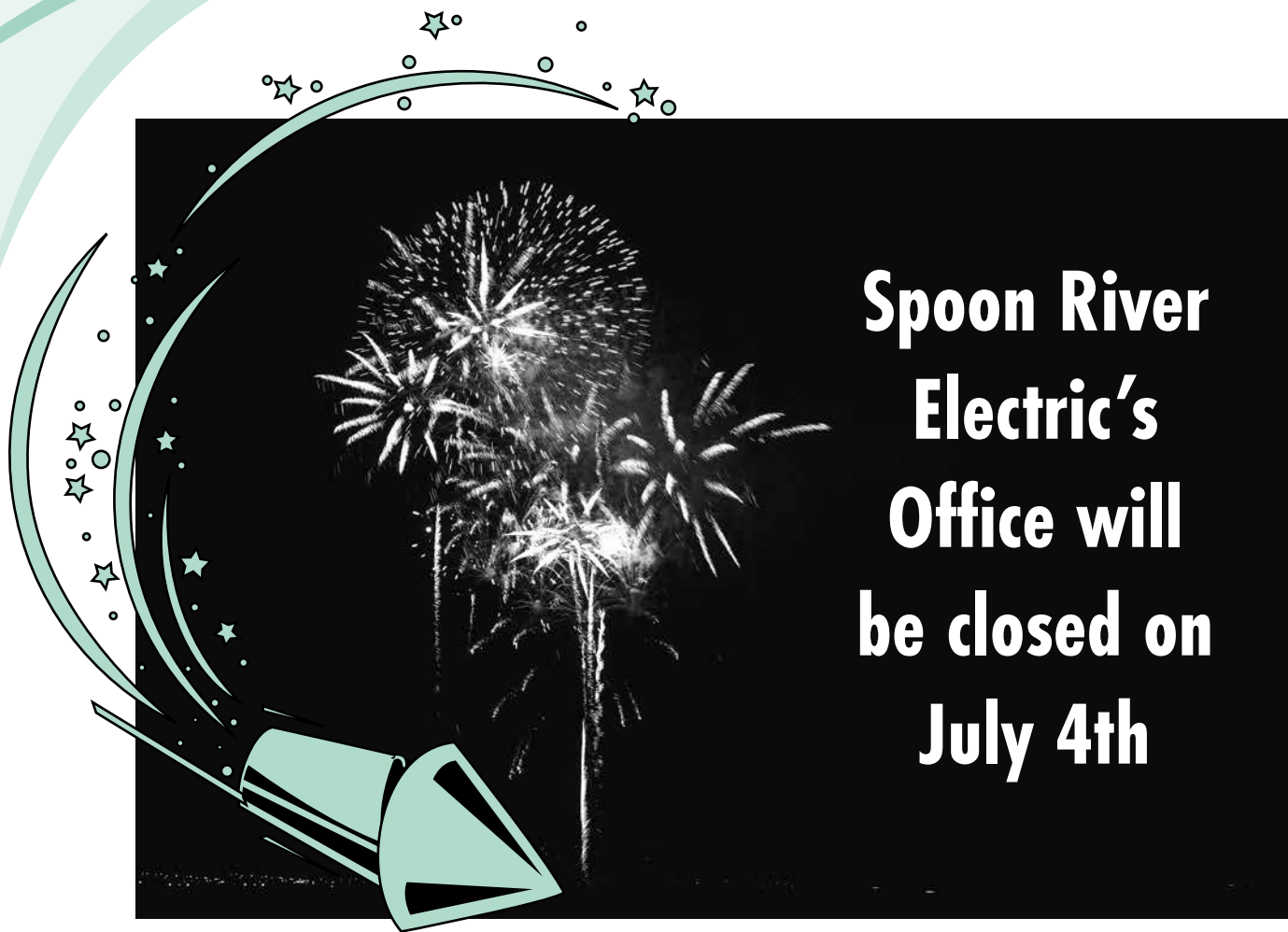
Lascelles, 45, of Ipava, is a farmer. He is also a member of the V.I.T. School Board, serving

as secretary, and a past member of the Fulton County Farm Bureau Board.

A graduate of V.I.T. High School, Lascelles has an Associate Degree in Farm Management from Spoon River College. He is a member of

St. Paul Catholic Church in Macomb.

Lascelles and his wife Ann have five children: Molly, 16; Jared, 14; Erin, 13; Maggie, 12; and Sophie, 5.



Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340, Canton, IL 61520

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

309-647-2700 • [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org)

### *President/CEO*

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### *Editor of Spoon River News*

Brenda Rothert  
[brothert@srecoop.org](mailto:brothert@srecoop.org)

## 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

# Fulton County Fair schedule

*July 25-30*

## **Monday**

**6 p.m. Fulton County Fair Queen pageant**

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## **Tuesday**

**Wine tasting in afternoon**

**5:30 p.m. harness races**

**Band will perform in the evening**

**Free attendance night**

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## **Wednesday**

**1 p.m. – 4 p.m. motocross race practice**

**7 p.m. motocross races**

**Band will perform in pavilion**

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## **Thursday**

**Kids' Day**

**3 p.m. livestock auction**

**6:30 p.m. – scrambles**

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## **Friday**

**6 p.m. Tractor pull**

**Saturday**

**6:30 p.m. Demolition Derby**

**Band will perform in evening**

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