

## Wise Investments in Energy Efficiency

### President's Report



**William R. Dodds**  
President/CEO

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The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with: our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. And when boosting energy efficiency is one of them, the decision becomes a no-brainer.

For any energy efficiency work made at your residence during the coming year, Uncle Sam will foot 30 percent of the bill — not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — better known as the stimulus bill—the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat

pumps, hot water boilers, and biomass stoves.

For weatherization-related work the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems as well as biomass stoves installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get, in the form of a tax credit, \$300 back. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades,

request what's called a "Manufacturer Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their websites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. You can also visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery) to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to following years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 for improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

For suggestions on how you may make your home more energy efficient while taking advantage of these tax credits, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Contact Brenda Rothert at (309) 647-2700 with any questions you have.



*Employees of Spoon River Electric Cooperative, including President/CEO Bill Dodds and Board of Directors member Scott Parrish, joined employees of Spoon River Mechanical Services and members of the Fulton County Fair Board for a volunteer work day at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown recently. The volunteers spent their Saturday working on the electrical system and lighting at the fairgrounds. Read more about the project on page 16b.*

# Shedding Some Light on the Fulton County Fair

Spoon River Electric Cooperative plans to shed some light on the Fulton County Fair this year. Several cooperative employees have volunteered to work on a project that will make the electrical system at the fairgrounds in Lewistown safer and more reliable. Lines which now hang overhead will be buried underground, and the amount of electrical load the system can handle will be increased, reducing outages. New, energy-efficient fixtures will be added to common areas, increasing lighting at the fairgrounds at night. Bill Dodds, president/CEO of Spoon River Electric Cooperative, is raising money for the much-needed upgrades.

"The local businesses I've contacted were quick to offer help with this project," Dodds said. "It's been encouraging to see how many people support the Fulton County Fair and want to help sustain it for the future." The cooperative's manager of operations, Frank Romane, designed plans for the upgrades. A

group of linemen offered to work at the fairgrounds June 12, so the first phase of the project can be done before this year's fair in July. The work needed at the fairgrounds is very extensive, said Dodds. Two phases of work will be done to upgrade the entire electrical system. This year, the first phase of the project focuses on the grandstand at the fairgrounds.

Three large poles with low-hanging wires will be removed, and the wire will be buried underground. "That wire is a safety hazard," said Dodds. "Kids hang on guy wires that support those aging poles, and it makes the wires bounce. If it ever fell on the aluminum bleachers at the grandstand, people could really be hurt."

New light fixtures will also be in place for this year's fair. They will help illuminate the popular events that draw crowds to the grandstand, and they'll also save money with their energy-efficiency. Ameren serves the Fulton County Fair-

grounds, and the company has been supportive of the project, said Dodds. The electrical system inside the fairgrounds is owned and maintained by the Fulton County Fair Board, which hasn't had the funding for electrical upgrades. Even though the fairgrounds property in Lewistown is outside Spoon River Electric's territory, Dodds said it's a worthwhile project that will benefit members and other community members. "Service to community is important to cooperatives," he said. "The Fulton County Fair is something that so many people here look forward to every year, and if we can make it safer and more enjoyable, that's a rewarding thing for all of us."

Anyone who wants to contribute to the project can mail a check payable to Fulton County Fairgrounds Electrical Project to Farmers State Bank of Fulton County, P.O. Box 167, Lewistown, Ill. 61542.

## 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*

William R. Dodds  
[bdodds@srecoop.org](mailto:bdodds@srecoop.org)

### *Chairman*

Jack Clark, Lewistown

### *Vice Chairman*

Bernard Marvel, Browning

### *Secretary*

Steve Pille, Glasford

### *Treasurer*

Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

### *Assistant Treasurer*

Terry Beam, Cuba

### *Board of Directors*

James Banks, Canton  
Greg Leigh, Avon  
Scott Parrish, Havana  
Kathy Smysor, Smithfield

### *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

# It's your party! Come join us!

The 73rd Annual Meeting of Members is just around the corner. The Annual Meeting is September 2, 2010 at Canton High School Auditorium. We have a great program planned for you. A pork chop dinner and registration will begin at 5 p.m. Please call the office to make a dinner reservation. Entertainment for the evening is Two Cent Offering. We have three Directors up for reelection: Jack Clark of Lewistown, Terry Beam of Cuba and Scott Parrish of Havana.

Annual Meeting Scholarships will be awarded again this year. Please turn the page for the official rules and a participation form. As always, attendance prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the meeting. A Garmin GPS will be our grand prize.

You will be receiving an Annual Meeting Notice in the mail with more details.



## Join us Sept. 2!

### Entertainment

Two Cent Offering was formed in 2007 when its members united around a common interest for recording and performing original music with a lasting message. Drawing upon a wide range of influences spanning classic and modern rock, singer/

songwriters, and rhythm & blues, the band creates a fresh sound that is rooted in rich musical history. Combining poignant lyrics with memorable melodies, the band's unique and accessible progressive folk rock sound encourages the listener as it blends message with craft in a way that makes both stronger in the end.



### Board of Directors Election News

Terms that are up:

**District 5**  
Jack Clark

**District 6**  
Terry Beam

**District 9**  
Scott Parrish



# ATTENTION 2010-2011 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is Awarding Two \$500 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2010-2011 school year, and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member, are eligible to apply for a \$500 Scholastic Scholarship or a \$500 Honorary Scholarship, awarded by the cooperative at this year's Annual Meeting held on September 2, 2010.

Fill out the form at the bottom of the page and send to the cooperative before **August 24, 2010**, to participate. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

## OFFICIAL RULES

- Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting September 2, 2010, to win.
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2010/2011 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2011/2012 school year.
- Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and non-renewable.

## SCHOLASTIC SCHOLARSHIP

- The Scholastic Scholarship will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Five semi-finalists will be chosen from the scholastic application forms received.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic Scholarship will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

## HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic Scholarship winner.



## Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student

Address of Student

Name of Parent/Guardian

Telephone Number

Scholarship Applying For:    Scholastic\*                      Honorary

Return To: Brenda Rothert  
Spoon River Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 340  
Canton, IL 61520  
647-2700

\*Those applying for the Scholastic Scholarship will receive an additional form in the mail regarding scholastic achievement.